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9 April 1986

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

HONDURAN OFFICIAL DECLARES SANDINISTAS OBSTRUCT PEACE

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 8 Feb 86 p 2

[Excerpt] The adviser to the foreign ministry, Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, remarked that the government of Nicaragua "is totally hampering" the peace negotiations, agreeing with the statements made by visiting delegations.

He noted that another important point which they studied was that relating to the mechanisms for verification and control, "wherein there is a great deal yet to be accomplished."

Prominent among the conclusions that they reached were: the repeated desire of the Central American countries meeting together for a resumption of the negotiations associated with the Act of Contadora, acknowledging how useful the resumption of the mediation process based on the peace message from Caraballeda has been.

He also noted that they had studied the mechanisms for verification and control, attempting to establish which action must be taken for verification and which documents must be prepared to be properly prepared to put the entire mechanism for verification and control into operation.

He emphasized that the reason for Guatemala's failure to appear at the meeting which ended yesterday was that it has maintained its own individual position; but it has shared to a great extent the proposals that have been made in the Panama negotiations.

He explained that there was no discussion of the regulation of military maneuvers and arms control, "because on that point we have a very clearcut and well defined position regarding international military maneuvers."

2909

CSO: 3248/295

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

MONTEVIDEO-ASUNCION FLIGHTS TO RESUME

PY241836 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2216 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Montevideo, 22 Mar (EFE)--The Uruguayan and Paraguayan airlines will resume flights between the two capitals on 1 May after the services were interrupted 20 months ago.

According to an official announcement made in Montevideo, PLUNA [Uruguayan National Airlines] and LAP [Paraguayan Air Lines] have reached agreement to provide the services twice a week, charging the same rate for tickets.

The air services between Montevideo and Asuncion were suspended after the [Uruguayan and Paraguayan] governments imposed reciprocal penalties on the two airlines after mutual accusations of violating international regulations on ticket rates, stopovers, and connections.

PLUNA sources had stated that the Uruguayan airline "is not interested in the service to Asuncion."

PLUNA Vice President Nicanor Comas on 21 March told the local press that the service is not profitable.

"The flights will be made if the government says so," Comas stressed.

He emphasized the lack of commercial interest, stating that "we will provide this service only to meet the orders from the executive branch."

The official announcement on the resumption of the services noted the role performed by Uruguayan Ambassador in Asuncion Jorge Pacheco Areco to ensure the success of the agreement between PLUNA and LAP.

/8918

CSO: 3348/463

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

PERU LOWERS BOLIVIAN CARGO TARIFF--The Peruvian Government has adopted a series of measures that will have a significant impact on the handling of cargo to and from Bolivia. In this regard, it has been stated that the term for free storage of merchandise consigned to Bolivia has been extended from 30 to 60 days and that the text of Articles 3.08 E and 3.09 E of the "Tariff Regulations of the National Ports Enterprise [ENAPU]" has been amended, reducing the tariff on cargo in transit to Bolivia by 33 percent. Moreover, the Peruvian Government has approved Directorate Resolution No 862-85-EF/74, through which the ENAPU General Management has ordered all provincial customs authorities to suspend the collection of sales taxes for storage facilities granted to Bolivian exporters in Peruvian maritime customs. It was noted that these measures, such as suspending the charging of sales taxes, the significant drop in the tariff charged by ENAPU on Bolivian cargo in transit through Peruvian ports, the extension by 30 days of the term for storage of mentioned cargo free of charge, and other measures, represent important incentives within the framework of Peru's spirit of fraternal cooperation with Bolivia. [Text] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 5 Mar 86 p 1 PY] /8918

CSO: 3348/463

9 April 1986

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ALP SAID TO FIGHT COMMUNIST PLOTTERS: ACLM ORGAN RESPONDS

Solidity of ALP

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 15 Feb 86 p 1

[Text]

The Herald Newspaper in a recent article alluded to the idea that the Labour Party was busily destroying itself from within its own ranks. (Two or three Monkeys no spoil no show.)

For over the last four decades the country has been led by the greatest Leader in the entire Caribbean V.C. Bird Sr. He has been humble, kind, compassionate and honest. He was surrounded by men of similar character who rallied around him and moved this country forward.

Into the ranks of the movement came men who professed their love for the working class man but who in essence were greedy and power crazy. Some are Communists clothed in Democratic

Garb just waiting to set up a totalitarian state ruled by the likes of Ronald Sanders who, previously was an adviser to none other than the former Guyanese Leader. The country must be mindful of the ploys adopted by these men who are desirous of destroying the fabric of our Society.

The Antigua Labour Party will survive because it was built on Solid Rock, with men who sacrificed with blood, sweat and tears. It is a party with soul and no set of individuals will be allowed to bring about the demise of this great party.

The Party requires dedicated men with characters moulded on democratic principles,

rooted in the simple Philosophy of an honest day's work for an honest day's pay.

No manipulation of the party's machinery will be allowed. The constitution will be followed in its entirety in order to arrive at our leaders. The architects of the constitution have already addressed the system of Leadership change. Simply, the Leader of this country will be chosen from and by the members of this Parliament.

We must be aware of the power hungry despots who returned to this country in the seventies after the real struggle with PLM, AWU and ACLM.

May the Good Lord preserve the life of our Great Leader V. C. Bird Sr.

St Johns OUTLET in English 28 Feb 86 pp 1,2

[Text]

In an absolutely stunning article, ironically captioned, "ALP IS NOT AT WAR" the bitter war in the Ruling ALP reached a new low and a new level of vicious animosity.

The Front page Workers Voice article announced that "Into the ranks of the Movement [Labour Party] came men who professed their love for the working class man but who in essence are **greedy and power crazy**. Some are **Communists** clothed in Democratic garb just waiting to set up a totalitarian State ruled by the likes of Ronald Sanders, who previously was an adviser to none other than the former Guyanese Leader."

The reference to Ron Sanders, known to be close to Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird, in fact, his speech-writer, makes it clear that it was Lester Bird who returned to Antigua in 1970 who is the "Communist clothed in Democratic garb in the ruling Labour Party".

BOGEY

What is even more ironic, is that the Communist bogey, used primarily against ACLM, is now turning around on its propagators and is being used **within** the very ALP as a guillotine with which to execute contenders in the battle for succession.

Lester Bird is, at best, Center-Right in his views, and when he speaks as a Centrist, as when he defended the Grenada airport as a civilian airport opposing Reagan's claim that it was a military airport, this elementary commonsense, sounds leftist in contrast to his father's ultra-rightist, support for the criminal mining of Nicaragua's narbours, or Harris' yearning "for the colonial days" with its slave discipline.

On the hand Lester Bird is an unreconstructed Rightist who functions as the hand-maiden of the foreign owners, de Savary and Rappaport for example and is often embroiled in their schemes.

The article in the Workers Voice, painted Lester Bird as a "despot" in a thinly veiled attack. Said the article "We must be aware of the power hungry despots who **returned** to this country **after** the real struggle with PLM, AWU, ACLM".

This can only be a reference to Lester Bird whom the country must be aware of and beware of since he did not take part "in the real struggle in 1968" and returned only after in 1970.

CONFUSION

Curiously, both Education Minister Harris and John St Luce, are ex-PLM members, with Harris in particular waging war against the Bird regime of 1968 "in the real struggle". The ALP is so confused, that in its utter confusion, it confuses history and all is confounded.

There is no telling where this brutal, bruising, public warfare within the ruling ALP will end. Some say it may even come to a war with weapons. Political murder has not been ruled out by observers and one faction actually expects it to be attempted.

The real root of the problem is that the ALP to defeat the PLM with new look intellectuals, discarded the old Fabians like the Hurst Brothers, Carrott, and the Sheppards, became an amalgam of Center Right led by Lester Bird, Rightists like John St Luce, who supports the IMF and publicly called after independence, for Antigua & Barbuda to be a Colony of Canada or the USA, and

ultra-Rightists like Harris who "yearn for the [slave or post-slave] discipline of the colonial days". V.C. Bird, at first a Fabian Socialist then described as a 'Communist', has become an ultra-Rightist, but ties of family and blood prevent him from joining the Ultra-Rightist faction.

The key-point is that there is no way that this pot-pourri of personages who came together via APP and ALP merger can live together and **govern effectively**. It is the inherent Conservatism of the Bird regime which led it into serving as conduit for arms to the racist regime in South Africa; to put down the teachers using the police, with great force; to arrest ACLM leaders for protesting arms to the racist Pretoria regime; and to encourage and foster the unimpeded foreign domination of the country.

MISGOVERN

Nevertheless, the internal contradictions of the ALP are rooted in it, and they must explode despite the best intentions of the men involved. After the public blood-letting of the recent spate of charge and counter-charge by ministers, it is impossible even in an uneasy truce, for this pot-pourri of political personages to govern effectively. The PLM shattered for the same reason. What is possible, is that the sheer maintenance of power could keep the ALP together, with or without PM V.C. Bird, but **with** or without him, they **cannot** do anything else but misgovern.

Among the recent leaks from Cabinet as a result of the power struggle in it, is the news that after the revelations of Outlet on the arms to the racist regime in South Africa via Antigua could no longer be denied two Cabinet

Ministers still insisted to keep "the arms to South Africa deal going". According to the leaks from Cabinet these two Cabinet Ministers were, Reuben Harris and then Attorney General Cosmos Phillips.

These two according to Cabinet sources cared nothing "about supporting apartheid and being seen to support apartheid with arms of all things". The two ministers insisted that "stopping the deal" would be tantamount to giving in "to Hector and ACLM" and that the other Cabinet Ministers were weak.

Noticably even though this happened, the Center-Right faction still continued to live with this ultra-rightist group who were willing to continue "to do business" with apartheid! Power and the perks of office glued them together.

/12828

CSO: 3298/371

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

TEAM FROM GUADELOUPE VISITS FOR OFFICIAL TALKS

St Johns HERALD in English 28 Feb 86 p 2

[Text]

The neighbouring French department of Guadeloupe, is regulating the number of persons from Eastern Caribbean territories who arrive there, especially those desiring lengthy stays, the Prefect of the Department, Mr. Maurice Saborin said this week during an official visit to St. John's

The French official headed a nine-member party which arrived on Tuesday 25th February, 1986, at the invitation of the Antigua and Barbuda Government.

Speaking with reporters from the HERALD during an exclusive interview, Mr. Saborin said nationals of this country will get special consideration because Guadeloupean authorities do not now encounter problems with Antiguan and Barbudans.

"Some East Caribbean nationals are in Guadeloupe for jobs at a time when unemployment among our people is quite high," he said.

He did not name any country, but there have been press reports of difficulties between authorities and Dominicans living in Guadeloupe. These reports speak of human rights violations against members of the Dominican Community, which have sparked off angry reactions in Roseau.

Mr. Saborin said the new visa requirements for Antigua and Barbuda nationals will be flexible and he explained that under some conditions entry will be permitted without visa.

Details of these arrangements are still being worked out between officials of Guadeloupe and the Antigua and Barbuda government.

FISHING

Antigua and Barbuda officials say Guadeloupe fishermen are illegally fishing in the country's territorial waters, and this is one of the important matters discussed during the meeting.

Mr. Saborin admitted that there have been difficulties in the past, particularly because "Guadeloupean fishermen do not always respect Antigua and Barbuda's Laws and territorial rights." He however said that contacts have been made and negotiations on a technical co-operation agreement are soon to begin at the highest levels.

Mr. Saborin, who met with Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Vere Bird and Foreign Minister, Lester Bird, described the discussions as "Frank" and said they were held in an amicable atmosphere.

He said further contacts will be made in the future to cover a broad range of issues including science and culture.

A team of technicians from Antigua and Barbuda is to visit Guadeloupe sometime before the end of March to continue the discussions.

ANIGUA AND BARBUDA

BRIEFS

HECTOR CONVICTION--ACLM's Chairman and Acting Editor of the nation's most effective Opposition Newspaper the "Outlet" had his appeal against a six month jail sentenced dismissed by the Appeal Court during a sitting in St. John's on Monday 24th February, 1986. Mr. Hector had appealed last summer against a prison term after a magistrate found him guilty of publishing a false statement which in essence was considered to undermine confidence in a governmental minister. However, even though his conviction stands, the court has reduced the sentence from 6 months to 3 months and has also suspended sentencing until June 2nd 1986. The ACLM Chairman is already challenging the constitutionality of section 33B (b) of the Public Order Amendment Act, under which he was charged. The out come of this motion is expected to determine whether or not he would serve the three month prison term imposed on him. If this motion fails, Mr. Hector has also indicated that he is prepared to challenge the section of the Public Order Amendment Act in the Privy Council if possible. [Text] [St Johns HERALD in English 28 Feb 86 p 1] /12828

CSO: 3298/371

9 April 1986

BRAZIL

POLAND TO BEGIN REPAYING ITS DEBT

PY181131 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] Brasilia--Three days of negotiations were not enough for Brazil to reach an agreement with Poland about the payment of the \$1.9-billion in promissory notes that the latter owes Brazil. These promissory notes--the polenetas [internationally nonnegotiable commercial notes used by Poland to pay for Brazilian imports]--have been issued by the Warsaw government since 1981. A representative of the Polish Handlowy Bank met with Carlos Eduardo de Freitas, Brazilian Central Bank Foreign Department manager, on 11, 12, and 13 March to discuss details of a future agreement. The contacts will now continue by telephone and telex.

Freitas said that to reach a final agreement, only the spread (added risk rate), remains to be established, because the interest rate on the Polish debts will be the same as that charged on the international market when the installments are paid. Furthermore, last week's negotiations did not settle disagreements over legal clauses of the agreement. Asked if Brazil would give Poland the chance of paying the same spread [preceding word in English] --1.115 percent over libor--which the Central Bank obtained from the debtors during the last negotiations, Freitas refused to comment, citing diplomatic reasons.

The Polish debt to Brazil has been under negotiation since 1985, when the Warsaw administration signed an "umbrella" agreement with its 17 creditors in the Paris Club. The first payment included debts due from 1982 to 1984, including the principal, the normal and the delayed interests. Last October both parties agreed that Poland would pay only the interests until 1989, while the principal would be amortized from 1990 to 1993. Carlos Eduardo Freitas said in conclusion that the date for signing the final contract has not yet been decided.

/8918

CSO: 3342/83

BRAZIL

INTERVIEW WITH BRAZILIAN CP LEADER

AU270610 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 21 Feb 86 p 4

[Interview given by Giocondo Dias, general secretary of the Communist Party of Brazil, to NEPSZABADSAG correspondent Csaba Nagy: Sour Goal is the consolidation of democracy"--date and place not given; first paragraph is paper's introduction]

[Text] Giocondo Dias has been the general secretary of the Communist Party of Brazil since 1980. He paid a visit to Hungary this week at the invitation of the MSZMP Central Committee and, on this occasion, he answered questions put to him by our correspondent Csaba Nagy.

The Party Is Concentrating On The Elections

[Nagy] In a few days it will be a year since a civilian government in Brazil was officially installed. The Communist Party, however, is still illegal. Why?

[Dias] We are living through a transitional period. We are advancing from a military tyranny toward a civilian system where it is already possible to discern certain elements of democracy. The party regards this period as a process. There are certain changes, and every sign shows that the events continue to follow this direction. In this historical period, the Communist Party is struggling for the consolidation of the elements of democratic development and for the expansion of the process.

This transitional period is leaving its mark on the activity of all the political parties in Brazil, including the Communist Party. We must switch over from the conditions of illegality to legal activity. Although the constitutional process of the party's legalization has not yet been carried out in full, as far as the necessary requirements are concerned, we have largely achieved something. Final legalization depends on when Parliament adopts the new law regulating the parties' activity. This will probably take place within this half of the year. Until then, we continue our political activity, and it is our direct task to prepare for the elections for the constitutional national assembly to be held on 15 November this year. The result of this election will be of outstanding importance from the viewpoint of the country's new constitution and its future.

With the election campaign, we wish to achieve a majority of progressive forces in the national assembly, a condition for the shaping of a democratic constitution. This is the constitutional possibility for the current trends to stabilize and the constitutional state to consolidate in Brazil, where there has not yet been, practically speaking, a real democracy.

[Nagy] What is the effect of the Brazilian Communist Party on the country's political system?

[Dias] The party's effect on the masses is adequate to its membership and its power, which are not so big for the moment but which are steadily increasing. In judging its influence, we must of course take into consideration the fact that the Communist Party has survived in Brazil in spite of several decades of persecution and in spite of the fact that many of our comrades were murdered and that the party had never been legal in its 60 years of history. Therefore, its relative influence is due to the fact that, in spite of persecutions, it has always consistently struggled for its goals, has always openly declared its policy, and has always struggled for the creation of socialism.

In the current period, we are cooperating with the progressive forces which take up the struggle against international imperialism and which struggle for national independence, social progress, and peace. These are the party's general goals. Our concrete goal, however, is--as I have already mentioned--to assist in the consolidation of the democratic political system.

We Urge The Implementation Of The Government Promises

[Nagy] President Sarney has recently changed half of his cabinet. Last year's election of local authorities also led to considerable reorganization. What is the country heading for?

[Dias] A few words, first, about President Jose Sarney's activity: As you know, he became president of Brazil in a strange way. He took over from President Tancredo Neves, who died prior to his inauguration, and thus he inherited Tancredo Neves' government. In addition, he became president of a country which was facing extraordinary difficulties at that time. You must also know that Sarney was originally the chairman of the party favored by the military and only later did he join Neves' camp. This is the background. Taking this into consideration, our attitude toward the government is motivated by two things. On the one hand, we support every measure that is in accordance with the election promises; on the other hand, however, we criticize the government's inconsistencies and its measures that are contradictory to the country's interests. We feel that the Sarney government has been trying recently to avoid fulfilling the election promises. So, we are not talking about a government promising revolutionary changes at all. This is a liberal cabinet with certain democratic features. The changes instituted by this cabinet did not affect the relations between classes. Although there were some changes within the groups in power, practically the same classes remained in power which were there in the 21 years of military government. The most recent event proves that the election for local authorities and the changes in the domestic political relations enabled the president to carry out a cabinet reshuffle. Now, totally understandably, he appointed ministers who are committed to him personally.

[Nagy] At \$110 billion, Brazil is the world's greatest debtor. What can be done in this situation?

[Dias] The civilian government is generally conducting the same economic policy as its military predecessor. There is, of course, some difference. The military dictatorship relied on recession and strictly carried out IMF regulations. This government, however, is running forward. It has even achieved some spectacular results lately. It has attained a relative independence from the IMF and is now striving to attain some sort of consolidation on the credit market through hammering out a series of agreements. This economic policy, however, cannot visibly change Brazil's dependence on the credit markets.

Brazil Must Be Open To The World

[Nagy] The new government in Brazil has taken several positive foreign policy steps. Thus, it supports the initiatives of the Contadora group in the peaceful settlement of the crisis in Central America. Is this only a matter of detail, or will there be an essential change in Brazil's foreign relations?

[Dias] There are some differences compared to the foreign policy pursued by the military government, but the general trend is the same. There is, for example, the issue of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba. The expectations are great, there are promises, but the decisive steps have not yet been taken primarily because the government does not want to arrive at an open confrontation with the United States. There are, of course, areas--like the above mentioned Central American issue--where radical changes have taken place. Sarney is definitely supporting the plan for a peaceful settlement in the area. This position of his is indeed opposed to that of Washington. More than that, Brazil, for example, urges the integration of the countries of Latin America. The activity by which Brazil is searching for contracts and exchanges of views with the countries of the area also harms U.S. interests. This is also reflected by the efforts on the part of Washington to make Argentina and Brazil confront each other and thus avoid the joint stand of the two biggest countries to the area for the particular interests of the continent. The current government in Brazil is also strengthening its relations with the African countries, primarily with Portuguese-speaking Angola and Mozambique. Brazil is conducting a more open policy and is taking a more clear cut stand against apartheid in South Africa. It is sure that, if this process continues, the contradictions between the United States and Brazil can become deeper. This is, of course, only a supposition, but if this becomes reality, it will encourage Brazil to develop its contacts not only with the countries of the developing world, but to open up also toward the socialist states.

[Nagy] Civilian governments took over from the military in Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil; the process of democratization is perceptible all over the continent. In your view, how does all this affect the future political development of South America?

[Dias] The presence of the elements of democracy does not yet mean a clear-cut democratization. I would rather say that the people's democratic forces and the patriotic movements have strengthened. This, however, is far from meaning

the consolidation of democracy. It would be completely natural if the democratic forces in Latin America integrated and took a unified stand. This would normally lead to a situation in which they would take a joint stand in defending the particular Latin American interests not only against the United States, but also against international imperialism. Now we are living in a period of hopes and possibilities on the continent. We must struggle primarily to make sure that these possibilities become realities.

[Nagy] Thank you for the interview.

/8918

CSO: 2500/223

CHILE

CHRISTIAN LEFT LEADER CITES CAUSES FOR SHIFT IN U.S. POLICY

PY182257 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Christian Left leader Luis Maira has said that the statement Admiral Jose Toribio Merino Castro made that the change in U.S. policy toward Chile is due to domestic problems is mistaken and is explicable because Admiral Merino is unfamiliar with the problem. There are other causes for those changes, Maira stated.

Maira also replied to a statement by the minister secretary general of government that the minister allegedly agrees with Cardinal Juan Francisco Fresno concerning the endorsement of democracy.

In Maira's opinion, the basic reason for the changed U.S. foreign policy lies in the Central American crisis. Reagan is determined to eliminate those regimes that he considers pro-Soviet, like the one in Nicaragua, and in order to do this he must face the U.S. Congress with the same attitude toward the right-wing dictatorial regimes, Maira stated.

[Begin Maira recording] In order to be able to create better conditions to ask for assistance, allowing him to combat the Managua government, the Sandinists, President Reagan must pretend to not be too friendly. He must display an inclination toward democratic transition in countries like Paraguay and Chile where dictatorships are in power. These are the only dictatorships left in the Latin American political scene.

Therefore, [word indistinct] the U.S. policy toward Chile is directly tied with the efforts the White House is making to obtain support for the \$100 million in aid it is seeking to strengthen the Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries. [end recording]

The Chilean Government has become a discredited ally, and thus the United States is willing to sacrifice it, Maira stated.

Concerning the statement by Minister Cuadra that he agrees with Cardinal Fresno that the 1980 Constitution establishes [the restoration of] democracy and the transition toward it, the Christian Left leader said the following:

[Begin Maira recording] I believe that Minister Cuadra is playing with words. In politics, in philosophy, and in all other social sciences things are as they actually are and not as they are said to be. The government pretends to call an ostrich a turtledove. The government pretends to call democracy a dictatorship, and that is impermissible. It can be used as propaganda for some time, but this government has abused this ploy of calling democratic what clearly is authoritarian. [end recording]

Maira added that the Chilean regime lacks all the characteristics of a democracy. There are no periodic elections, there is press censorship, there is exile, there is no congress, there are illegal armed groups, and human rights are not respected. Luis Maira concluded by stating that given this picture, Cuadra's statements lack seriousness.

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CSO: 3348/457

CHILE

VALDES CALLS FOR PEACEFUL MOBILIZATION

Meeting With PDC Members

PY140058 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Speech by Christian Democratic Party, PDC, President Gabriel Valdes at PDC meeting held at Santiago's Spanish Club on 12 March to mark the new governments in Haiti and Philippines--recorded]

[Text] We are gathered here today to celebrate the victory of the Haitian and Philippine democrats. This is a new milestone of the great democratization process that put an end to the dictatorships, which embarrassed Western civilization.

We were very happy with the democratization of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. A few years before we also saw the democratization of Spain and Portugal. Just recently the Christian Democratic leader Vinicio Cerezo was inaugurated president of Guatemala after decades of violence and repression. [applause]

At the conclusion of the 20th century, the ideal of democracy has shown its universal value. Freedom is not born from the color of the skin but from the roots of the soul. In Haiti, the poorest country of our region and one of the 25 poorest countries of the world, where people have never known a democratic life, a heroic minority kept the hope in human dignity and was capable of ousting the tyrant for life.

From here we greet Silvio Claude [leader of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party] and our Christian Democratic brothers of that country who have renewed our belief in our capacity to liberate ourselves by our own devotion to human values. Here from Santiago we honor the thousands of Haitian martyrs, we honor those who struggled without any hope.

The international democratization movement affects the character and behavior of dictators. They all dreamed of a single dictatorship, perfect, and permanent. They all naively believed that what happened to other dictators would not happen to them. They all trusted their secret police and the loyalty of their supporters. They thought they were so clever

that they made jokes about the opposition members and their ideals and values. When they thought the opposition members were too dangerous, they eliminated them.

All dictatorships have believed that the people are very naive so they tried to convince the people that they have a real democracy. All dictatorships proclaimed that they have reached wellbeing and progress. At the end all of them were blind and never saw reality until one day the people said: No more. This is what happened in the Philippines and this is why the Philippines is a sudden shock to dictators.

The democrats of the Philippines have given remarkable lessons of political know-how to defeat dictators. In the Philippines a single path was chosen for the recovery of democracy, a path without deceit or confusing rhetorics. That path was based on democratic values, methods, and practice. Millions of Filipinos showed us the power of persuasion and the energy of conscientious, discipline, and constant mobilization because democracy cannot be given partially to satisfy the dictator, who happens to be in power.

As the Philippine people wanted a new democracy they did not militarize themselves to prepare another dictatorship. Manglapus [leader of Philippine Christian Socialist Movement] had to live 2 decades in exile because of Marcos' arbitrary decisions.

Let us learn the Philippine lesson. Let us observe how they built a national movement toward democracy, a movement that spread all over the nation and involved all sectors in the struggle for democracy. This is the only way democracy can have enough strength to overcome the temptations of new dictatorships.

The National Philippine movement turned the instinct for revenge into an aspiration for justice and reconciliation. This is how the energy of democracy enhances society, and the passion for freedom cannot be anything but the passion for freedom for everyone and the careful safekeeping of the democratic credo. In other words that democratic movement encouraged human greatness and total generosity, without which any historic endeavor is impossible. The force of the democratic ideal ended by unifying the nation, the people, the church, and the Armed Forces.

Let us also learn another lesson from the Haitian and Philippine events. The end of the dictatorship and the escape of the tyrant also put an end to the entire regime, which disappeared almost instantly. One night the dictator ran away under pressure from his people. He ran away in the company of his close aides leaving behind his diehard supporters.

We are also learning a very important third lesson from the democratization process in Haiti and the Philippines. There was no chaos after the fall of the dictatorships. On the contrary, there was happiness. It was the beginning of real order, freedom, reconciliation and of course democracy.

The people of our country should know about this because it is an emphatic denial to those in power in Chile who try to create the illusion that they cannot leave the government because chaos would take over Chile. We know that that is not true. The end of the dictatorship is not chaos, it is the real beginning of reconciliation, freedom, friendship, justice, peace, and democracy. This is the only way we can build a real order, born of the people and sustained by them.

Many times we have criticized the policies of the U.S. Government which made the mistake of believing that its interests were better served by dictatorships. We have now seen with great satisfaction that the spirit of Jackson and Lincoln have been revived. Freedom and democracy is a universal task that commit all free men on earth.

We have defended the self-determination of people under the principle of respect for human rights, which is a supranational principle. In this way self-determination will not become an international clause to be used by despotic governments. Human rights and the struggle for freedom have always been rights that people advocate in all parts of the world. Dictatorships, which pretend to regard their own interests as those of the country, label those who struggle for freedom as traitors. This is outright hypocrisy.

In an interdependent world it is useless to ignore the influence of the current great powers. The historic lesson that always prevails, however, is that democracy is achieved by nationals and that no foreign action can replace the risks and sacrifices of social mobilization carried out by nationals. [applause]

To defend its national autonomy, Chile must not be accused of violating human rights, as it has been over the last 12 years. The first prerequisite for true autonomy is to permit the unrestricted practice of civil and political rights, which, by the way, Chile committed itself to do when it signed the UN Charter and other international pacts and agreements. Democrats can distinguish dictatorship from democracy. This is why the report of the UN special observer, Mr Volio, turned out to be so frustrating for the Pinochet Government. The Costa Rican lawyer, who was educated in a democratic country, passed ultimate judgment on our nation's situation: There is no respect for peoples' self-determination in Chile. Any other man of good faith would have said the same: We Chileans do not govern ourselves.

Comrades, friends:

After Haiti and the Philippines, the conscience of the world focuses in Chile, because Chile's time has arrived. This is the time for the final option between dictatorship and democracy. We have recently witnessed pitiful maneuvers of social and political diversion. Some rightist politicians, in their reluctance to face the dilemma of democracy or dictatorship, charged us in February with having participated in the 1973 coup. They thought we were defenseless to their attacks. They believed that the question of the military coup would divide us. The rightist politicians were mistaken twice. During the convulsed historical

process in the early 1970's all our leaders came forth with apt and honest explanations about the behavior of Christian Democracy. This proves that our party did the most it could to find a political and peaceful way out to the impending crisis. Today as in the past, we will exert ourselves to the utmost to find a political solution to the current crisis. Today we will act as we did in the past.

Instead of dividing us, the rightist politicians managed to unite us closer together in the face of an arbitrary, sudden, and unfounded attack. Indignantly, we reject the reference to Eduardo Frei, because his democratic testimony and his historical contribution to the nation place him above politics based on small-mindedness. [applause] When the events of 1973 come up for judgment in the court of history, all the evidence in that extreme case of political crisis will be available so that the complex truth of a social process can be sorted out. History is a process of discovery of the collective consciousness, not the stepmother of blackmail at the service of political circumstances.

The false historical polemics will spare neither the government nor the right from the obligation to make the options of the present. Nobody in Chile will escape the obligations to take an option between democracy and dictatorship. This is a clear and definite option that allows no room for deceptions or rhetorics. None of the political forces can find excuses for its conduct in the conduct of others at the moment of truth. No politician deserves to be one unless he makes a clear choice between democracy and dictatorship. [applause]

On the one hand is democracy as conceived and practiced in those countries where it is not restricted, distorted, or misrepresented; and on the other hand is dictatorship, whether of the right or the left, whether obscurantist or enlightened. This is Chile's choice, an inescapable choice. To confront this dilemma, politics must recover its greatness, because the nation is hobbled by the dictatorship's smallness. But we must be sincere. The opposition cannot repeat the mediocrity (?implicit) in the governmental measures. The time has come for clarity to do away with hypocrisy. In the midst of abuses against human rights, persecution in the universities, concealment of crimes whose perpetrators are not found, denunciations that go unheeded, persecution of those who seek the truth, insults from the government, denial of the right of defense, the interior minister spoke yesterday of a state of law, of reconciliation, of profound respect for the rights of citizens. With the same disregard for the truth, he spoke of a development of the institutions, of the spirit of legality that has characterized the government since 1973. If these statements were not so tragic, we could laugh at them. [applause]

The interior minister made a mistake with very serious consequences when he attempted to involve the Armed Forces in the responsibility of the government. Therefore, according to the minister, the Armed Forces are accountable for every action, and any criticism implies discrediting and offending the Armed Forces. He went so far as to affirm that this is a government of Chile and for Chile. We vigorously reject this attempt by

the government, besieged within its isolation and failure, to invoke the name of fatherland and to take shelter behind the Armed Forces, an institution that must stand above politics. In so doing they do violence to the conscience of Chileans. With a new wrapping, the interior minister, on behalf of General Pinochet, reiterated the decision not to even take into consideration the immediate measures suggested by the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy.

In view of this serious and repeated refusal, the Christian Democracy charges that, despite the good will of the democrats, the door has been closed on a political solution. Therefore, we firmly proclaim that the time for mobilization making a distinction between democracy and dictatorship has arrived [long applause]. Nobody can stand aside. Democracy will be conquered by the renewed effort of the entire Chilean society, I repeat: the effort of all the Chilean society, civilian and military. The events in Manila have demonstrated that the opportunity to open the way for new hopes always exists. But hypocrisies must give way to clear and unambiguous positions. Today, we need to evaluate what we have done and to exercise self-criticism of our propositions and methods. We must take the whole task in our hands.

There can be no room for those who speculate, cling to the past, and engage in political maneuvers while the people suffer anguish and hopelessness.

We want to be in agreement with all democratic forces. [applause] Neither the PDC nor the democratic opposition can be held responsible for those sectors within the right which do not want to or cannot struggle for democracy. [applause] Furthermore, the last statements and actions by such sectors have undermined their moral right to pose demands and impose conditions on our own sociopolitical strategy. We will resolutely continue on our own course, rejecting both interference and pressure. [applause]

We want to say the same thing to the other end of the political spectrum. Ambiguities undermine the unity of democrats. Terrorism, the militarization of politics, and the irresponsible proclaimed insurrection only serve to strengthen the dictatorship and jeopardize our future democracy.

The problem is not whether we will sit and talk either in public or behind closed doors, with or without witnesses. [applause] The point is that each political movement should once and for all explain its position. The permanent fluctuations of the political movements must end and their particular positions must be specified in documents because there have been statements and actions that have disregarded the agreements reached in previous talks.

It is essential to realize that only the people, the organized citizenry, the men and women, have the secret of defeating the dictatorship. Their secret is social action and their success depends on their commitment and on their support.

We will not end the dictatorship with grandiloquent statements, individualistic attitudes, or from the comfortable position of critics.

It is not the letters, the conversations, the reciprocal criticism, or personal ambitions which will free our country. The dictatorship will not fall by itself. Neither will it fall as a result of the work done by third parties. No one will undertake the task that each and everyone of us must undertake. It is the people who can oust the dictatorship with their democratic methods and objectives.

Therefore, we need responsibility, nobleness, and greatness to achieve peace and a broad democratic accord.

We believe now is the time to demand that the truth be told because in the eyes of the world Chile appears to be country marked by deception, hypocrisy, and substantial ambiguities.

Now is the time to tell the truth in order to be free. The government conceals and distorts the truth. That is why it has imposed immoral restrictions on television and censorship on the press. [applause] The government offends and issues threats against its enemies.

Beyond our borders, it is known that women were violently repressed during their peaceful commemoration of their day. The serious repressive actions against university students and so many other base actions like crimes, arrests of political leaders, and other repressive actions have not been made public in Chile.

We should also say that the pro-government media magnify all political chicanery, traditional rivalries, and personal ambitions within the opposition. The public receives opinions and commentaries that are at times distorted.

I sincerely and respectfully believe that we must make a supreme effort to work for superior objectives and remain loyal to the truth.

We urgently need a new political style based on clear--not permanently concealed--positions.

Dictatorship cannot coexist with democracy. We advocate unity among all the democrats who struggle for democracy with democratic methods.

We will tirelessly repeat that we want a fatherland without exclusions, without hatred, with accord, with clear limits for dissent, and with unrestricted respect for human rights. In this regard we want to strengthen the Democratic Alliance, which is a major political accord upheld by parties which have sown their affinity for it in documents and in major events.

9 April 1986

We are not, however, hiding the problems this organization is facing. In order to overcome these problems we call for a dignified attitude. We believe that its structure must be made more flexible and adaptable to the new demands.

We reiterate our decisive support for the National Accord. This is a basic document that commits us to the development of a spirit of loyalty for freedom and establishes the basis of future democracy. We admit that there are differences of strategy among the signatory members of the accord. The government's rejection of the document did not destroy the accord or paralyze its actions and we do not accept its freezing. Our proposal is to activate, improve, and disseminate the accord and to turn its immediate measures into an objective of national, political, and social mobilization.

The political parties must assume their role but it is up to every man and woman to express their will for freedom. Dear friends this is why this evening, inspired by the great efforts of the people who have put an end to the shame of dictatorships after political negotiations for change had been repeatedly closed, we call on the people to mobilize. Every sector has already made its demands. We call on the workers, students, professionals, women, teachers, transporters, businessmen, peasants, slum dwellers, scientists, homeless people, artists, and intellectuals to peacefully mobilize seeking the unity of society.

None of their legitimate demands will be solved outside democracy under a regime now oppressing us. All out mobilization must be carried out this year to show the government in all its intensity the peaceful but unyielding will of a people who want to be respected. This respect will be achieved when the people who are holding on to power realize that they must reestablish the principle of self-determination for the true reconciliation of all Chileans so that diversity can be recognized and the dignity and the opinion of everyone can be respected.

The peaceful force of Chileans must be felt, it will be felt. The Christian Democratic Party gives its most decisive support to this peaceful force. Moreover, the party commits all its members, men and women, to that action. The Christian Democratic Party renews today before the democrats of Haiti and the Philippines its commitments to work along with all democrats for the recovery of the dignity of every human being in a free and sovereign nation, in other words, in a country for all Chileans. Thank you very much.

MDP Endorsement

PY141544 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] The Popular Democratic Movement [MDP] has expressed support for the call by Gabriel Valdes, president of the Christian Democracy, for a decisive social mobilization by all sectors of the country. However, the MDP regretted that Valdes did not respond to a proposal to form a united social and political opposition to General Pinochet's regime.

As has been reported, Valdes yesterday delivered a speech to honor the Haitian and Philippine patriots, and defined the position of his party in the face of the current political situation in Chile.

MDP President German Correa stated that Valdes' speech made important points, but omitted others. He made a fair appraisal of the social processes that led to the downfall of the Haitian and Philippine dictatorships, and of the important lessons for the struggle of the Chilean people. He also noted Gabriel Valdes' recognition of the fact that a social mobilization is fundamental to oust the regime in Chile. Correa then analyzed what, in his opinion, Valdes omitted from his speech:

[Begin Correa recording] We noticed the repetition of points of view that the Christian Democracy has stressed all along, thereby blocking the unification of the entire opposition.

In that regard, it is regrettable that Mr Valdes failed to mention a proposal to create a national coordinating command for social mobilization, which has been advanced by several parties, including some parties within the Democratic Alliance. This is what all sectors of the Chilean people have been demanding. The people at the grassroots level are united in the fight against the regime to press their demands and to regain their rights. However, this unity must also be sought by the political leaderships in order to coordinate the mobilization and put together a national and popular proposal on what we want to do in Chile; that is, what we will propose to the people after the regime is ousted. [End recording]

Moreover, German Correa talked about the attitude the MDP will adopt regarding the mobilization and unity of the opposition that Valdes referred to in his speech.

[Begin Correa recording] We are very hopeful about and give great importance to the talks we have been holding with the Radical Party and with the Socialist Party headed by Mr Carlos Briones. We also expect to hold talks with the Republican Party, which has shown some interest in doing so, as well as with all other forces. We have already talked with the Christian Left, with the United Popular Action Movement [MAPU], and with all the forces which, just like ourselves and the rest of the opposition, deeply believe that a broad and public agreement and the unification of the opposition forces will be decisive to step up the fight against the dictatorship.

Therefore, our steps will be directed toward every effort conducive to attaining the highest degree of unity within the opposition. [End recording]

German Correa also referred to the bilateral crisis between the Chilean regime and the United States and the EEC.

[Begin Correa recording] The most meaningful fact here is the change in U.S. policy toward Chile, which is obviously in line with the goals the U.S. State Department has been seeking in view of the tremendous isolation and weakening of the dictatorial regime they contributed to impose on the Chilean people in 1973. Today, since this regime no longer possesses the force to protect pro-U.S. interests as it did in 1973, the Department of State has stopped protecting the regime and is searching for other alternatives to maintain its influence over the future of our country.
[End recording]

Correa asserted that the EEC and the other Latin American countries defined their policies toward the Pinochet regime a long time ago.

However, he said in conclusion, we must not forget that securing the path that leads to democracy is, in the end, the task of all Chileans who fight for it.

PDC's Zaldivar Supports Proposal

PY141642 Santiago ANALISIS in Spanish 11-17 Mar 86 p 44

["Exclusive interview" granted to Patricio Acevedo by Chilean Christian Democratic Party, PDC, leader Andres Zaldivar--date and place not given--quotation marks as published]

[Excerpt] [Acevedo] Spokesmen of the Chilean regime have disregarded statements made by U.S. officials who have publicly expressed their concern for the prompt return of democracy in Chile. What is your opinion on how the Chilean situation is viewed in the United States?

[Zaldivar] I base my answer not only on the close contacts I have recently held with members of the Reagan administration but also with those from other U.S. institutions. This time I found that today in the United States there is a single position regarding the Chilean situation. This is completely different from the situation I found the last time I visited the United States a year ago. Today they center their concern on two important issues: democracy and human rights, which are the core of an international political campaign. This campaign grants a privileged place to our hemisphere and, therefore, to Chile. But of course, this cannot be interpreted as a manifest will to intervene in our domestic affairs. No, not at all. I believe that this is the sovereign right of any nation--and particularly that of a superpower that has international influence--which bases its line of conduct on those values we have already mentioned: democracy and respect of human rights.

The Chilean situation is not a priority case for the United States alone. It is also one for the European countries and for the entire democratic world, because it is one of the few cases in which a dictatorship is still in power after so many years. Therefore, I believe that the statements issued by the Chilean Government describing the U.S. Government statements as "intervention in domestic affairs" are not in keeping with the truth,

since it is logical for the United States to adopt its own international policies in keeping with its own pattern of conduct.

What is really happening is that the Chilean Foreign Ministry is burying its head in the sand, which is characteristic of regimes that refuse to accept reality and always have a bad ending.

[Acevedo] It has been noted that social mobilization was one of the main factors used to destabilize the governments of Haiti and the Philippines. Do you believe that social mobilization in Chile could yield similar results?

[Zaldivar] Yes, indeed. I hope social mobilization yields similar results in Chile, and I am going to help in the achievement of this goal because I believe that social mobilization is the only tool that a society has available to peacefully demand the enforcement of its rights, such as the return of democracy. All Chileans have the obligation to promote a social mobilization so that the whole of Chilean society can pressure the regime--through peaceful means--to tread the path that will lead us to a real and honest democratic transition before it is too late.

[Acevedo] After a visit you paid to PDC Youth Leader Andres Palma in jail, people heard you express your complete support for what Palma said in his ANALISIS interview. Does this mean that you also support such comments by Palma as "if Pinochet does not leave power, we must overthrow him" and that this should be done "with the participation of the Armed Forces?"

[Zaldivar] Well, when I expressed my solidarity to Andres Palma, I did so in general terms. I have also said that dictators leave power either because God takes them or because the people overthrow them. But regarding the participation of the Armed Forces, I believe that any transition process to full democracy must unquestionably be achieved through an understanding between the civilians and the Armed Forces. If there is no understanding, this would mean that the civilians will have to defeat the Armed Forces, but this is not the path that either Andres Palma or I have chosen. This is what I understand he meant, and I support this statement: that is, "there is no democratic solution if there is no understanding with the Armed Forces. The other alternative--which neither I nor I believe Andres Palma is in favor--that is, to say and believe that we are going to confront the government and defeat it in the military field, is simply completely senseless."

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CSO: 3348/456

CHILE

SOCIALIST BLOC AIRS MOBILIZATION PROPOSALS

'Open Letter' Published

PY142105 Santiago ANALISIS in Spanish 11-17 Mar 86 Insert

[Open letter entitled "Meeting of the Socialist Bloc. Proposals for Moving Forward" published as an insert]

[Text] The meeting of the Socialist Bloc was held on 25 and 26 January. Despite government prohibitions, in a display of civil disobedience, 400 delegates from all over the country held talks somewhere in Santiago. The proposals made to the people, to social organizations, to democratic political parties and to those who believe in socialism, are listed below. [paragraph in italics]

I. Proposal to all Chileans and to the Democratic Opposition.

1. To create a political defeat through strong unity of the opposition, with a powerful and sustained social mobilization toward our common goal of putting an end to the dark period which exists in the country.

To reject, in keeping with this objective, any attempts at holding dialogue with the dictator and the formulas that his ideologists weave to entangle the opposition in the regime's institutional web.

To promote a vast process of civil disobedience among the citizenry, so as to generate a situation of uncontrollable social upheaval that would compel the Armed Forces to step down.

To make it clear that, within this framework, the only negotiation, in which we democrats are prepared to engage are those directed at establishing conditions for an immediate reinstatement of democracy.

2. To take up the challenge of making 1986 the decisive year for ousting Pinochet and opening doors to the people's demands and aspirations, that all Chileans have, to participate and be free.

In order to carry out this desire to move forward, we call for unity and mobilization in the pursuit of the following objectives:

- a. The acceptance of the list of demands proposed by the National Workers Command [CNT] through an agreement between the opposition and the social movements;
 - b. The call for a plebiscite to settle the conflict over the validity and the timetable of the 1980 Constitution, and the immediate reinstatement of democracy;
 - c. The organization and holding of a national strike with the fullest possible participation of the citizenry in order to exert pressure for the attainment of these objectives.
3. To support and strengthen the National Accord, especially its short-term measures, as the means for the attainment of a democratic consensus, which is necessary for preparing a feasible option, capable of providing a political solution to the current national crisis.
 4. To firmly seek the unity of the people establishing a bloc that would support the need for change.

To step up the demands of the workers and the people making them the pillars of the platform of the united opposition. The need for jobs, justice, and participation are goals capable of uniting all of us who want a broad democracy available to all sectors of our society.

Within this framework we call upon the Christian Democratic Party for increased social disobedience, for debating, and formulating a program of changes and further democratization so as to overcome its exclusion of a certain sector of the Chilean left.

To the Communist Party and other leftwing parties we wish to convey our desire to coordinate our mutual social mobilization actions on the basis of a clear-cut commitment to the antidictatorial struggle which has been chosen by the overwhelming majority of our people, to civil disobedience of the masses, foresaking any military action and strengthening the role of the people's movement in the democratic struggle and in the quest for a solution to the nation's crisis.

It is necessary for popular and progressive sectors to carry out united political actions and to achieve an earnest cooperation among the left within the framework of an unprejudiced concept of the unity of the people.

The people, in all of their social and political diversity, must display the fact that not only are they the majority, the majority that is suffering most and is fighting hardest against the dictatorship, but also that they can supply the national project for the reconstruction of the fatherland.

II. Proposals to the Socialist People and Their Parties

1. Our national meeting has agreed to move beyond the Socialist Bloc, that is, to take advantage of the positive aspects of the political project through which this bloc has been created and to move forward toward a new pact and a broader agreement among socialists.

For the last 2 years the Socialist Bloc has been the main guiding force of the socialist policy in the country and the broadest channel for the efforts toward unity and integration with a view to a great socialist force. However, the bloc has lost its momentum and, the fact that socialism has become splintered has allowed other options to gain strength.

The time has come for a leap forward.

Unity among the various factions of the historical mainline of the Socialist Party, of the MAPU [United Popular Action Movement], of the Christian Left and of the Radical Party of leftist leanings, as well as of the thousands of independent people who believe in socialism, is essential.

2. We reaffirm the need to build a great autonomous socialist force, strong, popular and reorganized, capable of playing its role in the struggle for democracy, in the development of the people's unity in a single bloc striving for change, and in the quest for the changes for which our country's future will call.

With unity on our minds we call upon all the socialist sectors to take action in the pursuit of the following objectives:

a. Discussion and signing of a socialist commitment capable of epitomizing, to the extent possible, the consensus of this portion of the left especially in establishing common fields of action for the implementation of alliance-seeking policies.

b. Establishment, for the abovementioned objective, of a socialist Unity Commission made up of representatives of all socialist sectors on an equal footing.

c. Priority must be given to a broad socialist dialogue directed at devising a common policy and organization within its framework. In this project all active bloc members and socialist militants, from the grassroots up, must be allowed to participate actively. Special attention must be given to the creation of Socialist Unitarian Movements on every front of the masses, because these movements will have a leading role in the process of socialist unity.

d. A socialist movement must be built with the help of all those who share with us a political proposal for the country.

Finally, we call for active solidarity with Andres Palma, Aljandro Toro, and Manuel Sanhueza, who have been unjustly arrested, and for strengthening the mobilization drive among the social forces for which the Chilean women have recently set an example.

Signed: Victor Barrauto, Guillermo del Valle, Enrique Correa, Ivan Nazif, Carlos Briones, Jorge Molina, Ricardo Lagos, Ricardo Nunez, Jorge Andres Richards, Gonzalo Meza Allende, Ruth Alvarez, Carlos Estevez.

Santiago, March 1986.

Wants PDC, PCCH in Mobilization

PY120300 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1240 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 11 Mar (EFE)--The opposition coalition Socialist Bloc has urged the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) and the Communist Party (PCCH) to join "a powerful and sustained social mobilization."

The announcement was made in the "proposal to all Chileans to stage a democratic opposition," summarizing the agreements reached in their last national meeting. The Socialist Bloc includes the Socialist Party, which is led by Carlos Briones, a former interior minister under the Salvador Allende administration, and also a member of the Democratic Alliance [AD], the so-called historical faction of the Socialist Party, the United Popular Action Movement (MAPU), the Christian Left, Radical Party factions, and moderate left independents.

The Socialist Bloc urges the PDC "to strengthen the civil disobedience line" and "to overcome the stand excluding a sector of the Chilean left."

The Socialist Bloc urges the PCCH "to coordinate social mobilization actions" on the basis of the civil disobedience and "to abandon all military actions."

The proposal of the Socialist Bloc includes, as key points, the unity of all the opposition in social mobilizations, the rejection of any talks with the chief of the military regime and the acceptance, as the only grounds for possible negotiation, "the setting of the terms for an immediate restoration of democracy."

As specific goals, the Socialist Bloc proposes "the drawing up of a Chilean paper" along with the National Workers Command (CNT), which is led by Rodolfo Seguel.

The Socialist Bloc also demands the holding of a plebiscite to settle the conflict between the effectiveness and performance of the 1980 Constitution and the immediate restoration of democracy, and the "preparation and implementation of a national stoppage by all the civilian sectors pursuing these goals."

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CSO: 3348/456

CHILE

TOP POLITICAL LEADERS DISCUSS THEIR PARTIES' POSITIONS

PY220108 Santiago ANALISIS in Spanish 18-24 Mar 86 pp 20-25

[By Pamela Jiles and Maria Jose Luque]

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] The positive repercussions from events in Haiti and the Philippines plus the determination of many to make 1986 "the decisive year" for Chile have brought to the center of discussion the need to create a United Political Command [CPU] to coordinate and conduct the social mobilization of the opposition as a whole.

After last November's euphoria for unification at O'Higgins Park, which came in response to a call by the Democratic Alliance [AD], the question of how to proceed to a higher level of mobilization in unity remained hanging on the air. The rejection by the government of the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy last December increased the degree of restlessness. The parties gathered under the AD realized that the possibilities of negotiating with the regime had ended and that only the road of social mobilization was open to pressure the regime.

After the O'Higgins Park rally, the Popular Democratic Movement (MDP) took the initiative by sending a letter to the AD inviting it to take advantage of the enthusiasm for unity and to promote a broad political agreement of the entire opposition. The parties making up the AD replied separately. The Christian Democracy made public a letter to the Communist Party making the possibility for an understanding conditional upon the Communist Party's decision to disown some forms of struggle, particularly the "violent" form. The Radical Party and the Socialist Party Briones-faction were ready to talk with the MDP on the possibilities for agreement, recognizing that there were profound differences and that no previous conditions were to be required.

During the summer months there were several bilateral talks between parties and between political spokesmen and parties. The Radical Party, the Socialist Party Briones-faction, the Republican Party, the MAPU [United Popular Action Movement], the Christian Left, and the MDP participated in these talks.

Early in March, the Democratic Intransigence made attempts to attain an agreement among all the opposition parties, however in the end they were unsuccessful.

In mid-March, although everyone agrees--at least in speeches--on the need to promote a social mobilization, no United Political Command has yet been formed. The talks about a mobilization of the opposition as a whole continue at the highest level of political coordination. Many forces contend that there have been some significant advances, but still no announcement on the creation of the United Political Command is forthcoming.

ANALISIS learned that there were meetings last week in which participants include everyone from representatives of the Christian Democracy to the MDP. It also learned that the United Political Command was "in the making," but could not yet be made public.

It can be gathered from interviews with the top leaders of each party that three positions exist.

One that holds a political coordination is unnecessary at this time, and that in fact it could be detrimental for the social mobilization because of the deep differences that exist. Those who support this position (the Social Democratic Party and the Liberal Party) do not participate in the talks.

The second position proposes the immediate creation of the United Political Command, without excluding anyone or establishing conditions. This position is that of the Socialist Party Briones-faction, the Radical Party, The Republican Party, the Christian Left, the MAPU, and all the parties within the MDP, which say that they have an agreement in principle.

The third position is that of the Christian Democracy, which is about to coordinate the social mobilization among social organizations. The Christian Democracy participated in the AD as an observer only.

While the politicians are discussing, the country is waiting.... ANALISIS talked with the top leaders of each party to learn what they are talking about, what can the public expect from their discussions, and how much progress has been made in the talks.

In the opinion of Social Democratic Party President Rene Abeliuk, the social mobilization only needs to be organized at a social organization level and not at a political parties' level. Abeliuk stated that "at this moment I do not deem it necessary and in view of the current strategic differences that prevail it could even have a boomerang effect and instead of resulting in a greater social pressure it could become an obstacle. The truth is that each sector has its own point of view and attitude regarding this issue. The National Party (PN) and the National Unity Movement (MUN) are not in favor of social mobilization and some members have even voiced their opposition to it. Then there is the MDP and the Communist Party (PC) strategy that is different to that of the Democratic Alliance regarding its objectives as well as the methods of struggle.

If a political agreement between groups with such varied points of view is forced, the problem will be that there will be no type of political leadership as long as these differences exist and, in view of the country's dramatic socio-economic situation, we run the risk of an unbridled outburst that instead of leading toward a democracy could have a completely different effect. The most positive social mobilizations staged from 1983 until now did not require a political agreement. The problem is that these mobilizations have lacked continuity and we have really been hindered by various political events that are not even worth recalling and which have already been overcome."

[Question] But, it is possible that the social organizations could possibly override the political parties?

[Answer] No, the social organizations must not be mistaken for political agreement, which has other objectives that go further than the mere problem of social mobilization, or social pressures as I prefer to call it. Within a social organization the people carry out their actions without acknowledging their preferences. During a rally no one is asked to which party he belongs. This is not important because the social sectors are moved by two motives: One, the desire for democracy and the conviction that democracy is the only way to give a real solution to the Chilean political problem. And, two, the social sectors are mobilized by their own problems. The mobilization in the universities carried out to put an end to the dictatorship that exists within them and this dictatorship is a reflection of the overall dictatorship that exists in the country. For example: In the case of Concepcion the students do not need the MDP, BS and the AD to reach an agreement regarding all the political problems, something that means creating an overall political coalition, in order to mobilize supporting these two aspirations.

[Question] And, the stoppage then, it would be the responsibility of the social organizations?

[Answer] Lets take things in order. The social mobilization that is now starting will take a determined line. And, a general strike, if that point is reached, is always the consequence of a process and not of a prior agreement that has guidelines and stages already set.

[Question] If this is not the time for political agreement, when will the time come?

[Answer] It may never be necessary. We cannot determine it at this time. The Uruguayan case is an example that an overall political agreement is not necessary for the emergence of a transition toward democracy.

"There should be something concrete in the next few days about the political coordination to promote social mobilization," said Victor Barrueto, MAPU Secretary General, who, although sick at home when we interviewed him, has followed very closely this week's talks.

He added: "We believe that the most realistic road is that of social mobilization, whether by following a joint plan drawn up by the entire opposition or

by forming a public United Command that will conduct the mobilization of all political forces and social organizations. I hope that the political forces can quickly match the social forces, which have demonstrated that it is possible to reach an agreement...successfully. Since January, we have been saying that this will be the year of decision, and time is running short. The political forces must come up with a joint plan of social mobilization and civil disobedience now. It all depends on the political will."

[Question] How far advanced is the creation of the United Political Command?

[Answer] I believe that there are several positive signs. The MDP letter and attitude are quite favorable. With its generous attitude, the MDP has demonstrated its capacity to place the nation's interests ahead of its own interests. My impression is that the MDP is truly intent on seeking an agreement and on discussing everything. The Radical Party and the Socialist Party Briones-faction, which are members of the AD, have shown a firm attitude not to subject themselves to the hegemonic sector with the AD and have made a decision to take their own initiatives to facilitate the understanding.

If the understanding between MAPU and IC [Christian Left], which have expressed the need to advance toward a concrete political unity, is also considered, we have a significant number of sectors together. I don't believe the Christian Democracy will be able to resist this trend for long, and it will have to take steps toward an explicit and clear political agreement with an eye toward social mobilization."

[Question] How long will it take to form the Unified Political Command?

[Answer] By late March or early April, I believe. Sufficient agreement should be reached this month. Although the mobilization must be the first step, I do not believe that it alone will be sufficient to dislodge the regime. I believe that the politicians have to support the mobilization with their capacity to enter into agreements, but they must also offer show where they are leading the mobilization. I think that the immediate measures in the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy command a very broad consensus that is shared by the MDP and AD sectors. These measures constitute a concrete formula for a political way out. The creation of a committee to support the immediate measures can create grounds for a broad and nonexclusive understanding among all political forces.

According to German Correa, main leader of the Almeyda-led faction of the Socialist Party, "we believe that there are good possibilities in this command because we know the will expressed by a large number of parties belonging to the Popular Democratic Movement [MDP] and the Democratic Alliance [AD]." He added that "it is public knowledge that the AD, the Republican Party, the Radical Party [PR] and the Briones-led faction of the Socialist Party [PS] favor the formation of a high-level political command to summon and coordinate the social mobilization. The MDP and its member, the PS, also proposed the same thing. The Christian Left [IC] and the United Popular Action Movement [MAPU] are also willing to form a high-level public command of this sort. The AD member parties, particularly Christian Democracy [DC], are discussing

the subject within the alliance, and we are waiting for a positive final decision as soon as possible. Our intention, as well as that of many other parties, is to make progress toward the creation of a broad, public-mobilization command without exclusions."

[Question] What are the current obstacles?

[Answer] This has been stated repeatedly: the narrow and hegemonist vision of some political forces; the lack of solutions to the urgent problems of large national sectors; the lack of agreement among political sectors to make the mobilization concrete, summon it, and lead it. In fact, some progress towards this was made lately. If our objective is to really put an end to the regime as soon as possible, our position favors a meeting to try to arrive at any agreement on how to attain this objective, leaving aside the divisions imposed on us by the dictatorship due to its interest in perpetuating itself. We could try to solve the issues that divide us within a framework seeking a solution, as we did in our talks with the PR and the Briones faction of the PS.

[Question] What are you willing to give up in order to create a command?

[Answer] We could have imposed some conditions before sitting down to talk with the others but we did not do so and we do not intend to do so. What is more, we have said that we are willing to discuss all the issues that come up and are important to the group of opposition forces in order to make an agreement possible.

"We are willing to give up as much as the other political forces are willing to give up regarding the issues with which we also disagree, within a frank and democratic dialogue."

[Question] How soon should the command be formed?

[Answer] Yesterday. We are making our greatest effort to carry out political talks in order to arrive at an agreement as soon as possible. We believe before the end of March we must start organizing mobilization-coordination group including all the political forces that favor it.

Enrique Silva Cimma, president of the Radical Party, has stated that "there is room for a Great Mobilization Command that would have an essentially peaceful essence. Everyone who thinks that this national agreement should have change and emergence as a goal should join this command. We have accepted dialogue with everyone regarding these proposals: Peaceful social-political mobilization and civil disobedience. This is why the PR has taken the lead in the talks with the MDP," he added.

[Question] How far along is the creation of this command?

[Answer] I believe that it is really in an advanced stage. There has been a great consensus of opinions. It [is] our desire that within this framework all the genuine party forces of the democratic system should reach agreement; that all of us who support democracy should unite; and that all those who

support the authoritarian regime should get together on the other side. All those who desire democracy should be included in the conglomerate we are talking about. There has been much advancement. We simply hope that the PDC, which we know is a very important party, will fully support these proposals.

[Question] When will the command be created?

[Answer] I cannot name a date.... I do not have a crystal ball at hand, but I believe that it must be as soon as possible. Probably in March.

[Question] And will this command be able to call for a stoppage?

[Answer] For obvious reasons I am not in a position to say what it will do. It must define the atmosphere within which we will mobilize.

"We have not yet stated our position regarding the stoppage because that would mean skipping stages. It is evident that a series of things will have to happen before the stoppage.... The problem of the stoppage has not yet been proposed."

"We are decidedly in favor of creating a United Political Command, and we have said so in several documents," said Commander Daniel Huerta, member of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR), whose existence has more than once been referred to as an "obstacle" to the agreement between the AD and the MDP.

"We are not a party and therefore we have not participated in political coalitions or multilateral meetings," Huerta added, "but we represent the section of the people that has been the most humiliated and the most repressed, and is the most interested in putting a quickly end to the dictatorship. On behalf of these sectors, we are tired of asking for the unification of the political leadership of the opposition parties." Commander Huerta recognized that "we have held bilateral talks with various social and political organizations and told them of our interest in unity."

[Question] What actions would the United Political Command coordinate?

[Answer] The United Command would lead the struggle to topple the tyranny. This should be its aim and the only condition for membership. It should have the respect of its diversified membership and should not try to impose the hegemony of anyone. It should have a clear plan of mobilization, a timetable of action and steps to take toward the development of civil disobedience and ungovernability of the country. It should seek a total and prolonged stoppage to force the end of the dictatorship. Not everyone would resort to the same method: Some will pray, others will stop; some will not pay their taxes or U.F.-dominated debts [mortgage debts denominated in an inflation-adjusted unit of account known as the Unidad de Fomento], others will exercise their legitimate right to use violence in self-defense. All these and many other forms of struggle will be necessary to render the country ungovernable.

[Question] Honestly, what is the FPMR willing to relinquish? Would it be willing to subject itself to directives from the Unified Command?

[Question] We will not do anything against the people's interests. We are willing to talk with any understanding democrat about the character and objective of our actions. Any of our actions can be specifically discussed.... We are willing to discuss any of them with the other opposition forces and to accept their opinions and suggestions.

[Question] What would you be reluctant to give up or to discuss?

[Answer] We cannot accept discussion of our strategy because this strategy has been well thought out and for 2 years it has demonstrated its effectiveness in discharging our commitment to the people. In the Philippines, the mobilization of the people and the advances of a powerful guerrilla movement brought about the country's liberation. This frightened the Yankees into a sudden demonstration of love for democracy, which made them turn against their protegee. The Philippine military, who had supported the regime for 20 years, also suddenly fell in love with democracy. In Chile, many partisans of the regime have become disillusioned with the regime, and the Yankees have developed a sudden love for human rights, to the point of calling for a vote condemning Pinochet in the UN.

[Question] But would you be willing to be subordinated to that Unified Command for the sake of the unity of the whole opposition?

[Answer] It seems to us that it is wrong to predicate the unity of the opposition on a declaration of truce, on a change of the method of action, or on modification of the statements of one or another group. The important thing is to see how the actions of the groups can be brought to bear on the objective being sought. We are willing to discuss our actions on the basis I have just outlined.

Rafael Maroto, the MIR's, spokesman and vice president of the MDP, has stated that if up to now the United Command has not been created, it is because there have been various events such as the imposition of some sectors over others with the intention of subjecting the command to certain political sectors. Notwithstanding, Maroto also indicated that there has been a considerable advance. "I believe, luckily, that we are very close to achieving that political and social agreement," he stated.

[Question] Why so close?

[Answer] Because of the talks that we have had with several political parties and expanded political sectors. Like the MDP, we have talked with the Radical Party, PS-Briones, IC, and with MAPU demonstrating that the possibility clearly exists. The talks have taken place in a very good atmosphere, with a great degree of urgency toward achieving this unity. We have talked very frankly when expressing our doubts but we have not tried to impose a determined line.

[Question] And what is happening to the other parties that belong to the AD?

[Answer] There are great possibilities and we are very interested. We are willing to talk with all the democratic political sectors. We make no exclusions; we have not started off by excluding any democratic sector. There are great possibilities for some sectors that make up the AD but it is more difficult with others. We believe that the PDC's letter of response closed the door to the possibility of talks. But we also believe that in politics that type of position is never absolute or definitive.

[Question] Have you met with the PDC? It is true that a meeting was held on Friday 7th?

[Answer] The MDP participated and the PDC was there also. I was not there but from what I have learned the prospects are quite encouraging for reaching some type of agreement.

[Question] Some AD sectors say that accepting all of the methods that are used by the MIR and the MDP would present an obstacle. Would you be willing to discuss this point?

[Answer] Regarding that objection, the MIR's position is quite clear. It has no intention of imposing this as the only strategy.

At the same time, it cannot accept that this path be excluded just because others want it to be. This cannot be accepted because, in the face of the violence of the dictatorship, the people have the right to self-defense and to even go beyond self-defense.

[Question] The MIR does not accept prior conditions, but, would it be willing to discuss this point at the negotiating table?

[Answer] The executive boards of the MIR would have to be asked. One can come to the table and discuss any subject. All points can be discussed. But no political force should have to change its position in order to join the National Accord. In this respect, the statements of Secretary General Andres Pascal have been made known and they outline the MIR's position. The National Board released a statement that was sent to the media.

[Question] The Friday meeting that has already been mentioned--was it just another meeting or did it have more importance?

[Answer] There have been other talks. I believe that the talks with the Radical Party and other parties are of great importance. And, they cannot be overshadowed by other talks. It is just another talk. One is added to the other. It cannot be said that this will lead to a definite line. It is very important. We really value it. Maybe it will lead to a definite line, maybe not. But, what is most important is that it be as broad as possible.

[Question] Why do you say that you are sure that the current talks will bring the possibility of agreement closer?

[Answer] The conviction of all forces regarding the urgency of social, popular, and strong mobilization sometime this year has been very well clarified during these talks. We already have agreement that a real paralyzation, an extended national stoppage, will be carried out very soon. And, another aspect of the advance that has been made is that we have now realized that the long-held desire of all the Chilean people may come true, and if it is possible, if there is already a consensus, then the will to make it happen is born.

Luis Maria, coordinator general of the Christian Left, believes that there are two basic problems that have precluded the establishment of the single command for social mobilization. "One of these problems has to do with the lack of precision, maybe even disagreement, concerning the strategy that must be applied to topple the dictatorship. Everyone is claiming to want the political defeat of the dictatorship but certain tendencies seem to contradict this basic assertion. On one hand, there are some who want to combine mobilization and negotiation at an early stage, on the other hand, no final decision has been made on the extent to which strong-arm measures can be used vis-a-vis social mobilization. At what point do the two cease to complement each other and begin to contradict each other? This is the basic problem that has so far prevented a substantial agreement among the various sectors of the opposition, but we are working to resolve it."

[Question] Why hasn't it been possible to overcome these differences so far?

[Answer] I believe that each party has a different opinion of what mobilization is, each group has a different idea of how far this mobilization should go, and has different objectives set for it. However, we have already taken a great step forward by agreeing to make mobilization our common objective. What we have to do now is to agree on a plan for joint action.

[Question] What are the prospects for such a plan?

[Answer] We are working on it. We will have it shortly, in the next few weeks or next month.

[Question] And what makes you think that this project will work out, what is the predisposition for it?

[Answer] The people are aware that the Pope's visit is approaching. This is the right time for mobilization, to put an end to the dictatorship through this mobilization. The most favorable time in terms of domestic conditions begins in 1986 and will end in early 1987. Furthermore, there is a highly decisive psychological factor, namely the international atmosphere. Today, unlike 10 years ago, there are only two dictatorships in all of South America: Pinochet's and Stroessner's and they are both experiencing crises. Over the last 3 months, two of the oldest Latin American military dictatorships collapsed: Haiti and Guatemala. Meanwhile, at the international level, Marcos' dictatorship, every bit as important a symbol as Pinochet's, also collapsed. The international status quo is proving that the people can recover their democracy. This is pressuring and influencing the behavior of Chilean political leaders.

[Questions] What are the results of the progress about which you are talking?

[Answer] Politically speaking we are taking steps that will shortly allow us to set up effective coordinating organizations. These organizations cannot be made public but they will be effective. This idea of a general staff will be implemented in practice although it may not have the public exposure we would have liked.

[Question] Why the secret, why not go public?

[Answer] It will not be secret, it will simply be confidential in the sense that it will not exercise a public political leadership, but it would never be secret in the shameful sense of the word.

[Question] Would not that reduce its effectiveness?

[Answer] It would be better for this body to be public but if it were then it would face more restrictions.

[Question] What will this body decide?

[Answer] It will draw up a single plan for mobilization and will establish the scope and set the pace for each definite action to be undertaken, and it will guarantee the active participation of the members and supporters of each organization in these sections.

Carlos Briones, Secretary General of the Socialist Party that participates in the Democratic Alliance, expressed his belief that progress has already been made toward the creation of a United Command for social mobilization, as he has understood from talks between MDP-associated parties and AD-participating parties. "We are advancing. An agreement exists in principle, and a climate of mutual respect and understanding with the MDP has developed. We have wisely set aside in the current discussions the problems we view from different perspectives, such as the problem of the form of struggle and violence. We will deal with this problem later. We did not ask the Communist Party [PC] to relinquish violence nor has the PC suggested that we give up some positions on tactics that it disagrees with. The meetings have allowed us to analyze what the social mobilization should be like, its national and unifying character encompassing the entire social body."

[Question] Has the progress extended to include other parties?

[Answer] We are awaiting the decision of Christian Democracy, [PDC] which is holding a meeting at this time (Wednesday afternoon). We also want to discuss the Unified Command question within the AD.

[Question] What are the prospects for those initiatives?

[Answer] We will make every effort to get the parties to join.

[Question] Which are the obstacles to unification?

[Answer] Some sectarianism. For instance, the PDC refused to talk with the MDP until the MDP made some sort of public confession that it disavows some forms of struggle, such as the use of violence. This is what we have called presumptive exclusion. Fundamentally, this has been an obstacle to an agreement: The assumption that social mobilization means violence. We have always contended that violence does not come from the people, but from the regime, because the system is permeated with violence. Another obstacle is the goal of the social mobilization. There have been different viewpoints. While there is consensus within the AD that the regime must end, there is no such consensus in the National Accord (AN) and National Unity Movement (MUN).

[Question] How can those obstacles be overcome and how long will it take to overcome them?

[Answer] They are being overcome, because the problems entailing ideological confrontation within the opposition are being set aside. This is not the time for ideologies. The idea that the present option in Chile is between democracy and dictatorship has gained considerable strength. We have found agreement in our talks with the MDP on the application of the immediate measures proposed by the National Accord.

[Question] How close are you to reaching an agreement?

[Answer] If you ask me whether all the agreements have been reached at this time, I would answer no. But if you ask me if there is an agreement on the creation of a Unified Command, I would say yes.

[Question] Among which parties?

[Answer] I understand that it exists among the Radical Party, the Republicans, the MAPU, and the Christian Left within the MDP.

[Question] Would the PDC be the final party?

[Answer] We will see what the PDC says.

"The fact that the political parties have not reached an agreement does not make me nervous. I am concerned that they should be willing to support the social forces," says Jose Ruiz di Giorgio who spoke to us in his capacity as vice president of Social Democracy.

Ruiz de Griogio gave this opinion on behalf of Social Democracy: "It is practical and possible today for the political forces to decide to make their contribution so that organized social forces can reach an agreement."

[Question] But the country is waiting for the political parties to reach an agreement so they can issue a call to action through a Unified Political Command....

[Answer] A distinction should be made between what the country wants--which we do not know because no one has asked the country--and what the party activists want. We have as many interpretations of what the country wants as we

have political leaders who act as spokesmen. One point is clear: An organized social world exists beyond the political leadership. More important than reaching political agreements is attaining real unity among the people through their organizations. To this effect, the political parties have to talk among themselves. My party has said this very clearly: Any talk to generate a process of mobilization helps; we are willing to talk with all the forces that represent Chilean society.

[Question] What efforts is your party making for an agreement?

[Answer] We have been talking for some time and we are still talking. We are talking with anyone who represents society...but we are not going to say publicly what we are talking about or how and when we will talk because we are confronting a dictatorship.

Reaching an agreement among the people to execute a program of mobilization is more important than signing agreements at the leadership level. Political coordination is important and to the extent that the political forces act responsibly, with consistency between their words and deeds, they may facilitate the mobilization of the whole people. The PDC has assumed this task with decision. Our party's activists at all levels have been instructed to make all possible effort to assist and not to hinder the unification of the people.

As long as we continue discussing problems publicly, writing letters publicly, as long as we continue to indulge in this game, it will absolutely impossible to advance.

[Question] How long has the PDC had this political attitude?

[Answer] The PDC has been mobilizing itself; the PDC leaders have not been in jail because they enjoy it. There have been discussions on questions such as social mobilization, the forms of mobilization, the participants, and the PDC has been there. And there is the precedent of the United Social Mobilization Command (CUMS) where the PDC, the MDP, and all the social and political protagonists participated. The thing is that the PDC has decided that in 1986 all its efforts, all its strength must be centered on making the massive social mobilization an orderly, planned process, so that it won't be the expression of sporadic and capricious actions. The party is fully committed to embarking on a plan of social mobilization and on a yet-to-be-discussed program. This plan is almost totally accepted by the other political sectors we have talked to.

[Question] When will the country have a mobilization program drawn, or at least supported, by all the opposition parties, the PDC included?

[Answer] Important steps are being taken at this time. The National Workers Command, the University Students Confederation, and the professional associations are seeking an agreement among themselves to make them the rallying point of the social forces. We hope that other sectors will join them in the near future. The basis is now being discussed for a proposal calling on the social forces to unite. If this is promoted by the political parties, I have no doubt that it can be done within a month.

There are people who signed the National Accord, which contains the Immediate Measures--meaning now, not 1989--, but who show no inclination to do anything to put an end to exiles, states of exception, restrictions to press freedom.... We have to make up our minds: Are all signers of the National Accord willing to mobilize so that the Immediate Measures can soon be implemented?

[Question] Through you, the PDC has participated in at least two meetings with the other parties, including the MDP. One was held last Friday and the other on Tuesday. What was discussed?

[Answer] I have participated in many meetings with political parties. All I can tell you is that one meeting is not important than any other.

Armando Jaramillo, president of the Democratic Alliance and the Republican Party, said that the problems of consolidating the Unified Command has to do with the old slogan that says that "the best thing to have is a good enemy." He said that the truth is that efforts have been made to prepare an extraordinarily perfect, effective and responsible mobilization plan in which all the parties have put the best of their knowledge, experience and ideas that could conciliate the greater number of wills aimed at the common goal of recovering a representative democratic regime.

[Question] How has your party contributed to this rapprochement?

[Answer] With great responsibility and acting without any complex or prejudice, we tried to evaluate what is the only reasonable, possible, and serious way to free the country from a bloodbath, and we found that it is no other way, we must accept the call for reconciliation made by the church. As the church's call did not exclude anyone, we made all the negotiations and sacrifices possible to accept the Accord. After the government rejected the Accord "we sought another alternative which is nothing more than social mobilization but in line with the church's call. We cannot mobilize with some groups and stop talking with others because they are all equally Chileans and patriots. They all want democracy, freedom and respect for Chile."

[Question] Not all the parties of the AD have such an open attitude....

[Answer] There has been a division in the AD regarding the MDP letter and answer. I am the AD president and especially because of that I cannot make any comments on this issue for the good of the alliance, therefore do not make me give an opinion.

[Question] Do you mean that you cannot talk about the obstacles for reaching an agreement?

[Answer] Yes, I can talk about that. The great obstacles are the inappropriate and ill-timed statements by some MDP elements who unfortunately and without judgment are in some aspect insisting on using violent methods.

[Question] How can that be overcome? Why has the Republican Party agreed to talk with the MDP?

[Answer] Exactly, and as I am an extravert I call things, as I see them. This is what I said to my friends in the MDP, the PCCh and the PS of Almeyda. They obviously have a point on which I also agree since I am on the middle-class, that the right for legitimate defense exists. If a human being is attacked, he has the right to defend himself by the same means. I believe that we are going to overcome this problem because beyond the beliefs of the AD or the MDP there is something else, the superior general interest of Chile. We have experienced very harsh moments with this dictatorship and we are willing to make concessions ourselves to reach an understanding and fulfill the commitment established for 1986.

[Question] When?

[Answer] I hope that by the time this publication appears my words will coincide with what has happened. I have great faith in a meeting which the PDC is going to hold tomorrow and the day after (last Tuesday and Wednesday). I believe that the PDC president is going to make a call to all the social, political, professional, student, union, and other forces to unite for mobilization to recover democracy.

[Question] Do you believe that the PDC-PCCh impasse has been overcome?

[Answer] I have no doubt. It cannot be any other way. Applying the norms of good logic it cannot be any other way.

[Question] Do you mean that the United Command is a fact?

[Answer] Yes it is and it would not be surprising if there were already at this time an agreement in principle. I know that a Single Command for Mobilization has been operating since the AD was created in 1983.

On behalf of the Communist Party, Jaime Insunza said that "the responsibility of the parties that oppose the necessary, urgent agreement is enormous." From underground, the communist leader pointed out that "there is no doubt that the people want unity. Unfortunately, the opposition so far has not formed a Unified Command, or a single directorate, or struck a political agreement. The question comes up as to why the opposition parties have not yet reached an agreement that will multiply the democratic force and bring the day of freedom closer; an agreement to confront the dictatorship that persecutes, kills, destroys the country, and oppresses millions."

As for the real chances for the attainment of an agreement, Insunza noted that "Positive advances have been made in recent weeks: The favorable reply to the MDP letter by important parties within the Democratic Alliance, the meetings and agreements of the MDP with the Radical Party, the Socialist Party Briones-faction, the Christian Left, and the MAPU, the open and generous attitude of the Republicans, the initiatives and proposals of the Democratic Intransigence, the increasing activities of the Board of the Left, the pro-unity statements by important spokesmen for the Christian Democracy, conversations and meetings are taking place. This reveals a trend, but it is not sufficient.

[Question] What is missing?

[Answer] The parties within the MDP make and will make all efforts toward that unifying agreement. We are willing to meet today and reach today all the necessary and possible agreements to create a political mechanism representing this democratic agreement.... We are also willing to strike some minor agreements that will guarantee the broadest, united, and decided mobilization now.

There are some who are worried about what the dictatorship says or can say, about what the dictatorial right may think. There are sectors worrying about what the Yankee imperialism will accept...the Yankees who are directly responsible for what has happened here in recent years.

To insist on discriminatory, sectarian, or hegemonic attitudes; to try to solve at the top what only the Chilean people can sovereignly, freely, and democratically solve; to continue assuming that the regime or sectors of the regime have democratic will, despite demonstrations to the contrary; and, more yet, to support the anticommunist campaigns is outright political blindness, scandalous insensibility to the drama of millions of Chileans--in sum, it is to prolong the tragedy of Chile.

[Question] How can these obstacles be overcome?

[Answer] There is no other way that the intensification of democratic struggle to strengthen the people's will for unity. It is also necessary that those of us who are convinced of the urgent need for a patriotic agreement take risks, take all the necessary steps and reach all the agreements possible to corner those who are obstructing and preventing an agreement by forcing them to listen to the voice of the people. We believe that it is not possible to wait indefinitely, that it is necessary to move ahead now with the people who are willing to do so. This decisive attitude will without any doubt help to make up their minds those who have not yet done so.

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CSO: 3348/461

CHILE

MRS ALLENDE ON CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC, COMMUNIST UNITY

PY212128 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Hortensia Bussi de Allende has stated that no action against President Augusto Pinochet can truly succeed in Chile unless the Christian Democrats and the communists join forces.

Passing through Madrid, after attending Mario Soares' inauguration in Portugal, Allende's widow, who has not returned to Chile since 1973, stated that our country is a plain in flames and that a prolonged general strike which is being prepared for this year, is the spark that can set the entire country afire.

Without concealing her hope, and more than that, her most fervent wish, Hortensia Bussi confirmed that 1986 will be a decisive year for the Chilean democrats. She invited the U.S. capitalists to play a positive role regarding our political process ratified by the people in the 1980 Constitution, admitting, however, that in the cases of Marcos and Duvalier it was the people who fought.

Allende's widow stated that the forces that are struggling to achieve Pinochet's downfall will accept any assistance the Reagan Administration may offer but that no U.S. option will substitute the efforts made within Chile. Hortensia Bussi had to admit that those efforts are not sufficient.

She concluded by stating that the Chilean opposition has a great responsibility for the prolongation of the military regime because of its incapability to be a unified option.

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CSO: 3348/461

CHILE

SANTIBANEZ ON OBJECTIVES OF NEW FRONT

PY080112 Santiago COSAS in Spanish 20 Feb 86 pp 30-31

[Interview granted by Luis Angel Santibanez, president of Social Democracy, to COSAS Reporter Karen Poniachik--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Luis Angel e Santibanez rejects the idea of leaving political activity someday. During the recess he was feeling like fish out of water, and for this reason in 1979 with other professionals he jumped into the political arena and created the Democratic Socialist Workshops, which became the Socialist Democratic Party.

Santibanez has just signed a document with the leaders of seven organizations, Radical Democracy, the Radical Civic Union, the Christian Social Movement, the National Democratic Party [PADENA], the Javiera Carrera Movement, the Social Democratic Workers Movement, and the Arturo Matte Civic Center, which will eventually give rise to a new political conglomerate called the Democratic Concord Front [Frente Democratico de Concordia--Fredeco]. Although this is yet to be seen, and although the creation of Fredeco was announced to the whole world, its consolidation is still up in the air. They are only awaiting the end of the political activity to "present the declaration of principles to the government in March."

[Poniachik] What is in principle the objective of this front?

[Santibanez] We want the transitory Article 27 of the Constitution to be amended and a plebiscite for the people to determine whether they want to vote in 1989 in an open election in which everyone votes for the president of his choice or whether they want it as is stipulated now. This is a matter of tremendous interest as far as elections are concerned and the 8-year presidential term that follows.

[Poniachik] Isn't this some sort of a National Accord among the government followers?

[Santibanez] There is a little bit of everything. There are followers and there are Christian Socialists who support the government and we, who make up a critical party which has no ministers, no officials, and no juniors, and which has very little contact with the authorities. We only

talk with them, which does not mean that we support the government. Ours is an opposition, democratic, and constructive party, different from the opposition we could call obstructive and which has been led by the Democratic Alliance and by the Popular Democratic Movement [MDP].

[Poniachik] Whom do you intend to include in this call?

[Santibanez] All the Chilean democratic sectors.

[Poniachik] Also, for example, Christian Democracy...

[Santibanez] Yes. All except the MDP.

[Poniachik] You were also affiliated with some of the same parties within ADENA, and before with the Group of Eight; they both failed. Why do you think that you will now be successful?

[Santibanez] Because the objectives have been adjusted. The previous organizations were undertaken with much enthusiasm but without the appropriate safeguards and without establishing definitely what could and could not be done. Now there is more groundwork and we hope for a good result.

[Poniachik] Why do you say that?

[Santibanez] There have been more talks.

[Poniachik] With whom? With the government?

[Santibanez] And also with those who are not in the government.

[Poniachik] Using your own words, the same thing could happen that happened before and each one might seek its own particular growth.

[Santibanez] There is always the fear that that could happen. The important thing is that the actions of one will not affect the others. We who signed this document understand this and I believe that it will be easier in this manner. Moreover, we have the experience.

[Poniachik] But the signatories are almost all the same ones.

[Santibanez] Now the Independent Democratic Union [UDI] and the Movement of National Action [MAN] are not included. And neither is the National Union.

[Poniachik] But they are the ones who have been having lunch lately with the president...

[Santibanez] There are people who had lunch with the president and 2 days later signed the National Accord. This is not something to jeopardize the independence of a party. Those who have lunch with the president are just individuals.

[Poniachik] How would you place this front in the political field?

[Santibanez] Between the government and the National Accord, as a linking point. In an independent position, and of dialogue. Therefore, it could also be called Front of Dialogue.

[Poniachik] Speaking of independence, why is it necessary to present the document to the president before anything else?

[Santibanez] To prevent the same thing from happening to it that happened to the National Accord. They signed the document, they sought more signatures, and managed to achieve foreign support. But when they went to present it to the government, it claimed that it was too late. If we are in a position of dialogue with the authorities, the first thing we ought to do is give them the document.

[Poniachik] You will probably talk also with the democrats...

[Santibanez] And also with those who are in the government.

[Poniachik] And are those in the government also democrats?

[Santibanez] The military are there, and they have a different stand. They have objectives established by the Constitution, and this is democracy. For this reason it is necessary to talk to them as well.

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CSO: 3348/457

CHILE

PDL DEFINES STANCE ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION

PY181254 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has stressed that there is a serious contrast between the situation that Chile is facing today at the international level and the esteem that it enjoyed in the past.

The PDC has made known its position regarding the decision of the UN Human Rights Commission, which has condemned General Pinochet's government for very serious human rights violations.

The national undersecretary of the PDC, Edgardo Riveros, read a declaration part of which reads:

[Begin recording] The resolution that was unanimously adopted by the UN Human Rights Commission condemning the violations of human rights in our country is a very important support for the democratic cause of Chileans.

After nearly 13 years in power, the regime is now observing that its international isolation is increasing every day. There is a consensus among the countries that make up the Human Rights Commission regarding the precarious situation that we Chileans are experiencing in the area of human rights. [End recording]

Edgardo Riveros also stated that it is essential to recover democracy in Chile in order to eliminate the daily abuses that the Chilean people suffer. Then, he outlined the PDC position in the wake of the UN condemnation against General Pinochet's regime.

[Begin Riveros recording] We are not happy that our country is the cause for international concern for such a regrettable situation. Chile's history demonstrates a very different reality. It was always in the lead in seeking adequate means to protect human rights when violations took place elsewhere. We never thought that we would be included among those accused of such violations.

Anyway, we Chileans know that it is not the country that is being condemned, the condemnation is against the regime that is governing it. [End recording]

International opinion has expressed its solidarity with the Chilean people and it gives its support hoping that they can find the path that will place the country in the place that it has traditionally occupied within the international community, Riveros concluded.

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CSO: 3348/457

CHILE

DEMOCRATIC INTRANSIGENCE SPEAKS ON ARRESTS

PY081220 Santiago ANALISIS in Spanish 4-10 Mar 86 p. 6

[Open letter published by the Democratic Intransigence Movement]

[Text] In view of the arrest of our president, Manuel Sanhueza, the Democratic Intransigence Secretariat declares:

1. Under the present regime there is no democratic state of rights, a matter which seriously affects the independence and impartiality of the courts.

The existence of the dictatorship is a serious offense to the dignity of the Chilean people, their history, and their fatherland. It is an honor therefore, for those who are persecuted to be jailed for their struggle toward freedom, democracy, justice and equality.

2. Social mobilization, civil disobedience and the use of a national stoppage are concepts that are unanimously supported by the political leaders presently in jail. These are legitimate tools of expression of the sovereign will of a people who have decided to recover their freedom and democracy.

In view of this political position, the regime bases its judicial proceedings against Manuel Sanhueza, Andres Palma, and Alejandro Toro for alleged violations of the state's domestic security law, thus admitting that it fears for the stability of the government.

The recent liberation of Haiti and the Philippines from ignominious dictatorships, thanks mainly to the decisive mobilization of the peoples of those two nations, has provoked the breaking up of institutionalized dictatorships, thus leading the Armed Forces to join the struggle and democratic desires of their peoples.

We have observed with enormous happiness that the strategy of social mobilization and civil disobedience, which we, the Democratic Intransigence, have promoted has demonstrated its historical efficiency.

3. Now is the time for unity in order to obtain democracy. We call on our people and all the social and democratic political forces to unite and to mobilize their energy to build a free Chile. The dictatorship is a synonym of violence. Only with democracy can there be justice, peace, and reconciliation. Thus, our urgency in fighting for it.

4. We express our undeniable adhesion and solidarity with Manuel Sanhueza, a constitutionalist and democrat with an exemplary career. The expression of our solidarity with Manuel Sanhueza, Andres Palma, and Alejandro Toro means an untiring struggle to obtain democracy through unity, and the mobilization for freedom of all the people.

We will promote the proposals contained in the latest document released by the Democratic Intransigence, which caused the summon against our president, because we believe that they are a positive contribution to overall unity and to the struggle of all democratic forces.

For and on behalf of the National Secretariat: Manfred Max-Neef, Juan Pablo Cardenas, Moy de Toha, Orlando Saenz, Fabiola Letelier, Rafael A. Gumucio, Fanny Pollarolo, Manuel Rioseco, Juan Manuel Alvarez, Jaime Cataldo, German Correa, Carlos Moya, Victor Sergio Mena, and Roberto Celedon.

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CSO: 3348/457

CHILE

BRIEFS

FRENAO SCORES U.S. POSITION--The National Front of Autonomous Organizations (FRENAO), which is presided over by Manuel Contreras Loyola, has asked the government to review its diplomatic ties with the United States. In a public statement, the FRENAO states that in the event that U.S. Government aggression continues, the FRENAO asks that the diplomatic ties with the United States be severed and the Chilean ambassador to that country be immediately recalled. The FRENAO also asked for permission to hold a demonstration in support of Captain General Augusto Pinochet and in repudiation of what the FRENAO calls an aggression upon Chilean sovereignty on the part of the United States. In the public statement, the FRENAO supports the position of the chief of state regarding the insolent attitude of White House officials, who, in the opinion of FRENAO, through political compromises, want to negotiate the Chilean sovereignty in exchange for support for the guerrillas in Nicaragua. [Text] [Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Mar 86 PY] /8918

POLICE DISPERSE DEMONSTRATORS--Santiago, 22 Mar (AFP)--The Chilean police used water cannons to disperse groups of pro- and anti-government demonstrators who clashed today in downtown Santiago, witnesses said. The incident started when dozens of young supporters of the military regime staged a march chanting nationalist slogans and distributed leaflets attacking the Christian Democratic Party and other opposition parties to pedestrians. The marchers were intercepted by counterdemonstrators who booed the government supporters and changed antigovernment slogans, thus creating an atmosphere of tension in the Paseo Ahumada area in downtown Santiago. Carabineros personnel were deployed to the area and dispersed the rival demonstrators with water cannons. There are no reports of detentions. On 20 March 4 people were shot and 170 were detained during demonstrations staged in Santiago and in other cities as part of a drive for democracy organized by opposition groups. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0336 GMT 23 Mar 86 PY] /8918

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DETAINED--Santiago, 20 Mar (EFE)--Eleven university students were detained today at the beginning of the drive for democracy called by all the women's organizations opposed to the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet. This report was released by Eduardo Abarzua, secretary general of the Federation of Catholic University students, FEUC. The Carabineros detained the Catholic University students while "they were distributing in a totally peaceful manner leaflets in favor of democracy," Abarzua stated. The detainees, 10 women and 1 man, have been taken to different Carabineros precinct offices in the Oriente neighborhood of Santiago. [Text] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1549 GMT 20 Mar 86 PY] /8918

JOURNALIST'S SON ARRESTED, RELEASED--Santiago, 10 Mar (EFE)--Journalist Edwin Harrington today reported that his son Rafael, who was regarded as missing last Sunday, was detained by the Carabineros and returned to his house tonight. At the same time, a 6-year-old boy, the son of a maid working for Harrington, who this morning was "picked up" by unidentified individuals from the school where he is studying, appeared on a street corner in northern Santiago. The disappearance of young Rafael Harrington, 19, and his apparent kidnapping caused a commotion in Santiago, especially some opposition circles. Journalist Edwin Harrington is the one who, through the magazine CAUCE, in 1984 started denouncing the corruption of the military regime and its representatives. On Sunday, Rafael Harrington left for a pharmacy near his house and did not return home until tonight, saying that he had been detained by the Carabineros. Thus far, no more details are known. A warrant of protection (habeas corpus) had been filed before the appellate court for the individuals and negotiations had been conducted with the Carabineros, the investigative police, and the National Intelligence Center (CNI), organizations which denied they had arrested the individuals. [Text] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0236 GMT 11 Mar 86] /9604

CSO: 3348/457

COSTA RICA

WIFE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT ARIAS PROFILED

San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish 21-27 Feb 86 pp IX-XI

[Article by Sonia Vargas L.: "The President's Margarita"]

[Text] She was born on 11 October 37 years ago. Hers has been a happy life. She is a mother, wife, daughter and sister and, for the next 4 years, will be the nation's First Lady.

She is preparing to assume the role with the same spirit in which she made the most important decision of her life some time ago: to give up her own career and help her husband become president of Costa Rica.

As she marks time waiting to assume her responsibilities, Margarita Penon retains the poise, equanimity and grace that characterized her during the past election campaign.

With her sweet face and ready smile, she seems to have prepared for the role since childhood, when her world revolved around the activities of her parents, with her father Eugenio making furniture and mother Margarita busy with housework, the sewing machine and embroidery, weapons she used in putting together the clothes of her daughters Maria Eugenia and Margarita.

She was an active participant in the daily routine of the family industry, especially during the school year when, on her way to Peru School, she was accompanied by her father and awaited him before returning home together to the house on La Dolorosa.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the manufacture and sale of furniture, then housed in a stone building more typical of the San Jose of yore, located near the Universal Bookstore, she was able to relax.

She might busy herself arranging some corner, dusting off finished products or entertaining herself looking at materials and other items. When a customer arrived, she helped with the choice of purchases.

Margarita Martinez, her grade school teacher, is still very vivid in her memory, for it was her personality that "lent a special aura to the group that lingers even when we get together now."

Little Fe Castro "Che," who at that time was the principal of the school, the beloved music teacher, Octavio Urroz, her cousin and grade school chum, Ana Isabel Perez, and Maria Cristina Lara, who accompanied her until they graduated from Saint Clare: These and many other names -- whose list would be far too long -- have never been forgotten.

The same is true of her first day in kindergarten, when a polio epidemic was announced in the country and her father took the entire family to a ranch he had rented in Santa Ana.

Nor has she ever forgotten the nuns at her school, the Sisters of Saint Francis, who came to Costa Rica with a "nearly missionary concept and who imbued us with a social consciousness of religion."

Another wellspring of memories is a 1962 school yearbook, which recorded that she was also in the band, chorus and on the basketball team.

Her sister adds that both were "Grey Ladies" in the children's ward of San Juan de Dios Hospital, before there was any children's hospital.

From Religion to Chemistry

For the future First Lady, her spiritual aspirations at that time were also unforgettable. They were so obvious that, combined with her solid academic performance, she was awarded a scholarship to go to a high school run by the convent in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"I think they harbored the illusion that I would become a nun, as did I, for a time," but that is as far as it went. The illusion perhaps died there, during that stay, which was "a marvelous experience because I was with my sister, who was enrolled at a university run by the same religious congregation."

She graduated from high school at the age of 15, with grades winning her the place of 15th out of 800 graduates. This was perhaps the key to another scholarship won another year later.

Back in Costa Rica and intending to study chemistry in the General Studies program of the University of Costa Rica (UCR), she came across an ad for the LASPAU (Latin American Scholarships Program for American Universities) organization in a newspaper offering a program in that country for second-year students.

"But since I was very bold," she continues with a happy smile that sparkled throughout our nearly 3-hour conversation, "I applied for it, took some exams and was finally chosen, even though I did not meet the requirement of the level of studies."

For a month or two in Vermont, she was enrolled in an English program at the School for International Living. She went on to Vassar in New York, majoring in chemistry and minoring in biology.

It was 1966 and "although the university was all women, the experience -- which lasted until 1970 -- was very interesting because it was the period of the Vietnam War and the peace marches, the protests over racial conflicts and building takeovers by Black students, when the drug problem reached its peak. In short, they were times of great upheaval."

The same war situation prevented her from fulfilling her aspirations of going on to medical school, a career that for many American students was a way of avoiding military service. Furthermore, "my grades were not all that good."

Once she had graduated from Vassar, she decided to return, take a few courses at UCR and then apply to some school.

Equation

But destiny had already marked out a different path. Love, which had knocked at her door four times, definitely obstructed her path this time. Around the beginning of 1971, a cousin introduced her to a friend of his and shortly thereafter, her phone unexpectedly rang.

They would go out to eat, to the movies or the theater, but not so much to dance: "We have never been great dancers, although when the occasion arises at some social event, we make the most of it."

She thus became engaged to the then minister of planning, Oscar Arias Sanchez, whom she accompanied to official and social occasions.

On 27 April 1973, when she was 24, they were married and her first home was an apartment in the city of Heredia.

About that time, she got the idea that her husband would look great with a mustache, but "he looked terrible. I still have pictures in which he looks like a Russian. I prefer him clean-shaven."

Before she was married, she taught biology at Lincoln School, but resigned when she became pregnant with Silvia, her eldest child.

With the news, the couple moved to a ranch in San Joaquin de Flores, where they they lived until a few years ago, when politics entered her home with greater intensity and they moved to Rohrmoser.

As far as chemistry is concerned, "if anyone asked me now what an equation was, I could not tell them." But not all is lost. She believes that the scientific discipline acquired during her university career is still useful and influences her life.

"Perhaps some day fate will have me continue in medicine. Who knows?"

Personality

It is perhaps that vision, her solid religious background and the time she spends in her preferred corner of her home, the library, that enable her to manage all her current activities.

As a mother, housewife and all that being First Lady imply, things cannot be so simple.

Her social commitments leave no time for rest and although she does not consider herself to be a good conversationalist, she is a good listener. She has a good sense of humor and she loves to listen quietly when someone else does.

"I cannot tell jokes, but I love to hear them and I have heard a bunch of the latest!"

She says her greatest quality is her "patience and ability to wait amidst the struggle. I have many flaws; life is a battle to overcome them."

She feels very bad when she gets angry, which happens rarely but obviously, in the face of injustice.

What she likes most about her husband is his good heart. His worst failing: "He can be stubborn." She loves it when he sends her gifts, as on last Valentine's Day, when "he sent me flowers and a lovely card."

In clothing, she prefers simple styles in strong colors, but in keeping with the occasion. "Pants are very comfortable, but they are not always suitable."

She likes to buy only when traveling abroad and only when necessary, but she does give in to her fondness for fruits and vegetables.

Perhaps it is because the Penon family bought many of such products in the same place for generations. She buys some things monthly. In all her daily tasks since her marriage, she has had the help of Maria Teresa Segura and, more recently, of Tea, who handles the cooking.

"When we were in San Joaquin, we did fine by ourselves because the house was small and our life much calmer. Since I have lived here, I have not been able to catch up as much as I would like. I still need to find a picture to have framed and hung over the fireplace. We need another in the dining room, but this is a continuous process.

To decorate her home, she has always enjoyed the help of her father, who makes the furniture and handles all the woodwork. The rest is the same as anywhere else: "I put things here and there, then get tired of them and rearrange everything."

In the near future, she plans to add two offices, one for her and the other for her husband, and a room for gatherings.

What she most likes about homemaking is cooking. She has little time for it, but she tries, when her children want something special. She worries about their having a balanced diet and tries to be with the children for their three daily meals.

When asked about her favorite author, book or field of study, she is vague: "It depends on my state of mind. I love to read and I often gain a great deal of pleasure from poetry. One of the writers that has interested me most lately is Teilhard de Chardin. In literature, I like and classics and Latin American works and I have been very impressed by the wave of popularity the latter have recently enjoyed."

A similar response is obtained when one asks her about painting. "I think it is a very great mistake to limit oneself to a single work." Her home displays paintings by different artists, along with sculpture, "which I like very much."

More categorical is her opinion when she is asked to define herself as a conservative or moderate woman: "Neither one" How difficult it is to categorize oneself!"

However, it is different in the case of music: She prefers the classics.

And what about soccer? "I am a fan, but not a fanatic. Oscar is from Heredia and I have always been a Saprissa, out of family tradition."

In addition to basketball in school, she played tennis as a university student and until only a short time ago, would run a half hour a day. "I hope to start again soon."

Democratic Mother

Her hopes as a mother "are those of any mother. The greatest concern one has is to be able to pass on to one's children the best values one has inherited: morals, discipline and the desire for self-improvement that one finds in all human beings, in short, the basic spiritual values."

She thanks God that "this very difficult stage in the campaign" finds her at a time when her children have already gone beyond the age when they most need her -- until the age of 4 or 5, she thinks -- and when she was constantly with them.

She believes "the unity of my family and caring for my children to be the main duty and I do not know whether I shall have to take it back, but I do not think the duties I shall assume as First Lady can be as intense as those of a political campaign. I think I will have an opportunity to organize myself better."

It is precisely that supercharged atmosphere experienced throughout the election campaign and the pressures of the future that are one of her greatest fears as a mother "because an adult can choose. I did it, but a child finds himself in situations that are not normal for him. In our case, our children chose their participation, but it is always hard for them."

The repercussions that this may have she analyzes in two ways: "It may serve as a very valuable experience in their education, but there is definitely

a risk because there are pressures that may make them grow up faster than would otherwise be necessary or suitable."

She is happy to have been able to pass on her religion to her children. "Our older daughter has already made her First Communion and our son will do so in time. They like to participate along with us in our religious activities. Oscar has a New Testament and often asks us to read it to him."

Silvia, 10, has already completed fourth grade and Oscar Felipe, who is 6, will enter kindergarten this year, both at Lincoln School.

Unlike her, who started school earlier than recommended, she prefers that her children "enjoy every phase in their lives, especially because they will need great maturity for all the situations they will have to face. I have always wanted them to enjoy the emotional stage in which they find themselves."

Politics has also interfered with her marital life, but "we usually try to find time for some activity. When Oscar comes home at night, we sometimes listen to music and talk. Moreover, during the campaign, there were thousands of opportunities to be with other people, enjoy meetings and visits to different places, which is a marvelous form of entertainment."

That work in itself was one way of achieving the goal she set before 2 February: for Oscar Arias to win the presidency. Her main objective now is to feel satisfied over the next 4 years and for her husband to keep all his campaign pledges and promises.

"Everything is possible. Oscar's proposals were made based not only on his knowledge of reality, but also on his studies and search for solutions." However, she believes that the efforts of all Costa Ricans will be necessary.

As president, "I expect a great deal" from Oscar Arias. "He has the potential to give it and we Costa Ricans want the changes which, based on the law, will lead us to a more just society, toward a true social democracy."

For her part, she will always be willing to help wherever necessary and insofar as it is in her power to do so. She has already demonstrated that determination, when she was campaign leader and president of the women's movement of the National Liberation Party.

She did not make big decisions at that time, she said. "It is the little ones that gradually change things."

This is the world of Margarita Penon, who faces the future with "great sadness that in both parties, there were fights over candidacies, but it is a great comfort to think that Oscar's program seeks what is best for the country with respect to the length and amount of money spent on the political campaign."

Vision of Today

The following are Margarita Penon's opinions on:

Religion: "It has a very important role to play, perhaps the most important of all: that of maintaining the spiritual life of every person and orienting it toward what is best."

The role that religion must not play: "That of participating in political affairs or in matters outside the realm of spiritual interests."

John Paul II: Among those on whom she was asked to pass judgment, "he seems to be the most important person because of the strength of what he says, his influential personality, his obvious intelligence and his practice of going to all peoples."

Ronald Reagan: "He is the President of the United States who, during his second term in office, has preserved the highest percentage of popularity in the history of that country. This means that he has responded to the aspirations of his country, which is admirable."

Mikhail Gorbachev: "He seems to have a more modern style of governing and to date has demonstrated interest in communication and dialogue in the East-West conflict, which is a good sign for peace."

Margaret Thatcher: "She is a strong woman and not called the 'iron woman' for nothing. Some hate her; others love her. She has shown that a woman can lead her country's government. In the past, that has been done by many queens and in the contemporary world, by Golda Meir in Israel and Indira Gandhi in India."

Fidel Castro: Without any doubt, he is a leading figure in international society today. Unfortunately, he has not contributed to the freedom that constitutes a real democracy. It is also unfortunate that he intervenes violently in other countries."

Daniel Ortega: "I have the impression of someone somewhat arrogant, who does not dialogue with the people. As he appears, always dressed as a soldier, he is removed from the concept of a ruler that we have in Costa Rica."

Relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua: "Any Costa Rican knows that relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, because the different forms of government, are difficult. However, dialogue and diplomatic relations are better than another form of communication."

Work of the Contadora Group: "They represent hope for negotiation and understanding."

American help for Nicaraguan rebels: "It is very troublesome because it goes against the principle shared by our people of nonintervention, a principle I consider sacred in international relations."

Militarism in Nicaragua: "Militarism in Nicaragua is unfortunate. A country with so many needs, so many economic problems, maintains an army that endangers the balance of forces in the Central American area."

Government of Luis Alberto Monge, in the economic, political and social fields: "I believe it has been a good government, which our people recognize. Economically speaking, it achieved stability and laid the foundations for growth. Politically speaking, it maintained peace, at home and abroad. The people have gained confidence. Socially speaking, much remains to be done, as Luis Alberto admits himself, because the resources were lacking and it was of prime importance to solve economic problems, the instability and lack of confidence inherited from the previous government."

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CSO: 3248/284

CUBA

TALKS WITH MEXICO ON CONTINUED FISHING IN YUCATAN WATERS

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 20 Jan 86 p 2

[Article by Fernando Davalos]

[Text] "We have had very positive relations between our two countries. Contacts between them are very close and the identification is total, which is why we have renewed the fishing agreement existing between Mexico and Cuba every year," Pedro Ojeda Paullada, the secretary (minister) of fisheries of Mexico, said on his arrival in Havana to preside over the Fourth Conference of the Continental Fishing Commission for Latin America (COPESCAL), which will be in session as of today.

In Mexican waters close to Yucatan Cuban fishermen fish for ruffle with bottom trotlines, a practice that goes back to the past century and which is now engaged in by virtue of the above-mentioned agreement. In our country hauls of this fish are basically destined for hospitals and child-care centers.

The Mexican secretary of fisheries praised the level of these "fishing relations," which have transcended other areas of cooperation to our mutual benefit, and he explained that combined with the aim of presiding over the Fourth COPESCAL Conference was his desire to engage in fraternal conversations with the heads of the Cuban Fishing Industry Ministry.

When he welcomed his Mexican counterpart, Jorge Fernandez Cuervo, the head of the ministry, also reiterated the spirit of fraternal support existing between both nations.

The Mexican delegation, which is also composed of Undersecretary Fernando Castro Castro and Ricardo Juarez Palacios, the director general of that brother country's Department of Aquiculture, was also welcomed at Havana Airport by Aldo Margolles, a vice minister of the Cuban Fishing Industry Ministry, and Prof Enrique Olivares Santana, the Mexican ambassador to Cuba.

Among others, Carlos Baez, the director of the Cuban National Aquiculture Enterprise, who heads our delegation to the Fourth COPESCAL Conference, and Antonio Carcedo, the Fishing Industry Ministry's director of foreign relations, were also at the capital air terminal.

11,466

CSO: 3248/279

CUBA

NEW PRINTING COMPLEX FOR MAJOR NEWSPAPERS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 29 Jan 86 p 3

[Text] A major step in the completion of the new printing complex for GRANMA newspapers in Havana will be taken tomorrow when builders and installers turn over the industry's production section, making it possible to initiate the startup phase.

The conclusion of this first portion of the modern publications complex coincides with dates established by the project schedule. It is the result of the hard work of builders from all provinces of the country, along with groups of Soviet, German and Cuban technical installers and printers, who devoted their construction and technological efforts to the purpose of hailing the party's Third Congress.

With completion of the production section, it will be possible to begin the startup of the combine, following suitable testing for an industry of such complexity and modern technology. The shops will soon be able to put out the newspaper GRANMA, followed by other national dailies this year (TRABAJADORES and JUVENTUD REBELDE), as well as that of the provincial capital, LA TRIBUNA, in Havana.

An important role has been played in this modernization of the national press by the cooperation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and engineering and commercial entities in that country. The German Democratic Republic has also extended its cooperation.

In June, builders and installers from the different Ministry of Construction enterprises that worked here, especially ECOA 24 [Architectural Projects Construction Enterprise], ECOIND 3 [Industrial Construction Enterprise] from Havana City, the projects enterprise (EPROIV) from the CECE [State Committee for Economic Cooperation] and others, will turn over the section corresponding to staffs assigned to the newspapers TRABAJADORES, JUVENTUD REBELDE and LA TRIBUNA in Havana. By 2 December, the combine will be totally completed and ECOA 6 will turn over the three sections of the new printing industry, surfaced with Jaimanitas stone in homage to the 30th anniversary of the "Granma" landing.

Praiseworthy efforts have also been made by over 80 young people from the Youth Labor Army (EJT) for the past 5 months.

The new complex, located near the Plaza de la Revolucion, is five storeys high and cost some 11 million pesos for construction and installation. It is the country's first experience with the completion of a polygraphic complex specializing in the daily publication of newspapers and tabloids.

The reason for this significant investment serving the production of more and better national publications is the technological obsolescence and deterioration of the old plant inherited by the revolution, whose equipment had been used intensively for decades. The country obviously needed a modern newspaper printing complex in keeping with modern times in terms of printing, quality, speed and industrial efficiency.

During the 2 years and 4 months of construction and installation, a daily average of some 275 men and women have participated in the completion of the different phases. In addition, groups of construction workers from all the provinces and the special municipality Isle of Youth contributed their valuable efforts to the completion of the project.

The construction system used by the Havana combine was the so-called SAE (Open Frame System), involving structures with prefabricated columns and double beams and intermediate galleries covered with Iosas Spiroll. The system of sliding molds was used in some portions of the engineering project.

Along with this printing complex in the country's capital, its counterpart in the city of Holguin will now enter its testing phase, working in coordination with the one in Havana. During this initial phase, the Holguin combine will gradually assimilate the provincial daily newspaper AHORA. After July, the two combines will merged by the coaxial cable, which will make it possible to publish GRANMA and the rest of the national organs going to the eastern provinces simultaneously.

Concerning the printing technology of this type of industry, it will use off-set (indirect printing utilizing photos) with equipment from the GDR and the USSR. It is equipped to publish in two colors, black and one other.

The first newspapers published by the new Havana printing complex will come out on an experimental basis in the days ahead, in a special edition of the newspaper GRANMA, in homage to the Third Congress.

11,464

CSO: 3248/280

CUBA

ADVANCES, PROBLEMS IN 1985 IN IMPLEMENTING HOUSING REFORM

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 18 Jan 86 p 2

[Article by Joaquin Oramas]

[Text] It was reported at the national conference on housing held yesterday in the auditorium of the Higher Institute of Economic Management in the capital that, according to the number of stub books issued in 1985, 459,836 of the country's existing 507,639 onerous beneficiaries are in a position to complete their property ownership transfers.

During the event they examined aspects of the process of transfer of property ownership to onerous beneficiaries, issued 2 December certificates to those municipalities that have completed this task, reviewed the job done by the National Institute of Housing last year and reported on that agency's program of measures for the current year.

The report discussed at the conference states that the provincial and municipal housing administrations, the People's Savings Bank and other agencies have conducted an industrious program aimed at transferring ownership of housing units to their occupants. It adds that, notwithstanding the fact that they have not completed this program in all of the country's municipalities and provinces, "it may be asserted that those agents that participated in this task made a considerable effort."

One hundred thirty nine municipalities and seven provinces completed the task. The latter are: Pinar del Rio, Havana, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila, Camaguey, Las Tunas and Holguin. The two provinces that are farthest behind are Havana City and Santiago de Cuba.

It was also reported that 252,094 onerous beneficiaries have received their property deeds.

At the conference chaired by Enrique Anavitarte, the president of the National Institute of Housing, they drew up a balance sheet of the management of each of the agency's departments. In connection with this, they said that the Department of Legal Affairs and Legislation did an active job of legislation during which preference was given to basic complementary regulations and those required by the process of transfer of property ownership.

Twenty five provisions involving regulations complementary to the general housing law were passed, although some regulations of special importance are still pending passage.

These are the regulation of entailed housing and basic resources, agreement on the policy and order of priorities for the allocation of housing, the regulation of temporary cooperatives, rules for the allocation of vacant lots and the regulation of multifamily buildings.

Another point raised in the report is the drafting of instructions concerning the procedure for the eviction of illegal and cohabiting tenants in coordination with the PNR [National Revolutionary Police]. Which, the report says, will in future speed up the handling of review procedures. Measures that should be increased considerably taking into account the fact that this year they will begin to apply the policy to illegal and cohabiting tenants.

It reiterates the fact that in the process of ensuring proper execution of the transfer of ownership 252,094 of the 459,836 titles of ownership that could be transferred, representing 54.8 percent of them, were delivered last year.

They also reported that the year before all the buildings in the country were inventoried and classified and at present and in the near future a survey of all the housing units in the country will be made to determine the technical status of these assets.

Furthermore, they examined the program of measures to ensure achievement of the economic and social objectives for 1986.

This includes completing the process of transfer of housing property and of transfer of ownership to onerous beneficiaries.

Increasing the construction of housing for the population as well as regulating and controlling the appropriate policy for the delivery of materials for the construction of new and the preservation of existing housing.

Other basic measures are aimed at introducing registration of property ownership, setting up boards of directors for multifamily buildings and applying their regulation and completing the process of drafting regulations complementary to the general housing law.

11,466

CS0: 3248/279

CUBA

BRIEFS

'FIDEL AND RELIGION' IN POLAND--Warsaw, 20 Jan (PL)--The Polish Armed Forces daily newspaper ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI reported yesterday on the imminent publication of the book "Fidel and Religion" by the Ministry of National Defense. ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI notes that "Fidel and Religion" is a kind of "best seller" in Latin America and adds that while the content of the book departs from reality on that continent, in Poland the interview will also be a document of far-reaching importance. The newspaper includes excerpts from the book and notes that the work represents a sincere exchange between the highest leader of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro, and the Brazilian cleric, who has just visited Warsaw. Reprinting the book's introduction, the newspaper observes that neither Fidel Castro nor Frei Betto waived from their convictions, but that "they nevertheless came to the conclusion that in the contemporary world, there is a need for Christians and communists to work together." The alliance, the Polish Armed Forces publication continues, must be founded on firm moral, political and social bases. [Text] [Havana GRANMA in Spanish 21 Jan 86 p 4] 11,464

NEW SURVIVAL GUIDE--Published by workers at the Osvaldo Sanchez Polygraphic Combine, the book "Guide to Meeting the Needs of the Population Under Difficult Conditions" opens with a saying by Marti: "...preparing people to defend themselves and live with honor is the best way to defend them." This work includes a list of instructive file cards concerning a group of medicinal plants that grow wild in our fields, yards and gardens, explaining the chief medicinal properties of these plants and their principal uses. Composed with the participation of State Central Administration agencies, the book offers the public a number of guidelines for people to better prepare themselves and it attempts to meet their typical needs through craftsman methods and by exploiting natural resources in the event the country should find itself damaged because of natural disasters or military attacks that unleash a war involving everyone. It also introduces an elementary knowledge of agriculture for the cultivation of certain root and garden vegetables, of the manual production of salt, laundry soap and candles, hand-made clothing, the processing of fish, the manufacture of furniture, food hygiene, the disposal of solid waste (garbage), preschool educational resources and communications, among others. According to the information GRANMA was provided with yesterday, an edition of 20,000 copies of "Guide to Meeting..." has been run off, which are on sale, and another 200,000 copies will be distributed through the mass and defense zone organizations. [By Jose A. de la Osa] [Text] [Havana GRANMA in Spanish 15 Jan 86 p 3] 11466

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

AIR FORCE APPOINTMENTS--President Salvador Jorge Blanco introduced yesterday important changes in the high ranks of the Dominican Air Force [FAD]. The president appointed Brigadier General Ramon Andres Peralta FAD inspector general. Coronel Marcos G. Rodriguez Melo, promoted to brigadier general, was appointed general administrator of Las Americas airport. Coronel Victor Manzano Reyes was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and appointed commander of the FAD central air command. National Army Coronel Isidro Maria Acosta Infante was appointed national supervisor of national ground transportation. Brigadier General Cesar Reading Kundhar Hernandez was retired. Brigade General Francisco Alba Lopez was appointed interim general director of civil aeronautics. Captain Rafael E. Reinoso Paniagua was appointed deputy chief of the corps of military assistants to the president of the republic replacing Coronel Erasmo Acosta Batista, who was appointed FAD quartermaster general. [Summary] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 4 Mar 86 p 11 FL] /9599

PENA GOMEZ SENATE CANDIDATE--The Dominican Revolutionary Party last night selected their candidates for senators, deputies, and mayors for the National District and Santiago. They plan to conclude today in Puerto Plata and Peravia. Jose Francisco Pena Gomez was the candidate selected for National District senator. Tourism Secretary Dr Rafael Subervi Bonilla was the candidate selected for mayor. In Santiago, lawyer Robinson Abreu Blondet was the candidate selected for senator. Victor Mendez y Mendez was the candidate selected for mayor. Those selected as deputies were Foreign Secretary Jose Augusto Vega Imbert and current legislators Jose Maria Diaz, Ambiorix Diaz Estrella, and Marcos Martinez. [Excerpt] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 12 Mar 86 pp 1, 12] /9599

CSO: 3248/300

GUYANA

MORRISON HITS 'INACCURACIES' IN HOYTE'S EXPRESS INTERVIEW

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 16 Mar 86 p 15

[Article by Fr Andrew Morrison, editor of the CATHOLIC STANDARD; for the text of the referent SUNDAY EXPRESS interview with President Hoyte, see JPRS-LAM-86-023 of 5 March 1986, page 85]

[Text]

PRESIDENT Desmond Hoyte's interview with Trinidad EXPRESS Managing Director Ken Gordon, published in the Sunday Express of February 16, contains a number of grave inaccuracies which readers in Trinidad and Tobago, not acquainted with the situation in Guyana, may not be able to detect. Three examples will suffice to show what is meant. They deal with wheat flour, Fr Connors' expulsion and press freedom.

About wheat flour Mr Hoyte said: "The cessation of the importation of wheat flour came about not from us, but from the owners of the wheat mill who couldn't get their profits out because we didn't have the foreign exchange and they decided they would close the wheat mill and therefore we then had to organise ourselves to live without wheat. Many

people don't seem to remember that. They believe that the government took a decision one day that we are not going to import wheat. But that was not it at all."

This is the first time that Guyanese are hearing this reason for closure of the flour mill. They had heard repeatedly the PNC leaders declare that banning of the importation of wheat was a political decision of the ruling party in line with its policy of striving for food self-sufficiency.

Mr Hoyte himself is quoted in the Guyana Chronicle of September 30, 1984, as saying: "We

must continue to confront and oppose resolutely the few benighted persons in our midst who still yearn for wheaten flour, sardines and apples. We cannot compromise with them."

The flour mill officials who were consulted by the *Catholic Standard* knew of no such reason for their closing. They had always understood that the mill was forced to close because government stopped granting licences for the importation of wheat.

On the question of press freedom, Mr Hoyte was asked: "...Would your government, for instance, be prepared to allow an independently owned daily newspaper

to operate?" He replied that the *Catholic Standard* was independently owned and so were others run by opposition groups, but "they tend to be weekly or periodic issues."

"There is nothing in our laws" he said, "to prevent Guyanese from forming a company and running a newspaper."

Mr Hoyte failed to add that control of the importation of paper, machinery and printing equipment, even as gifts, could effectively restrict the functioning of any paper, and has caused the *Mirror* daily paper to become a very reduced weekly and has adversely affected all independent local publications.

Mr Hoyte also failed to mention that the only daily paper and both radio stations are owned and controlled by the government and are used as propaganda instruments of the PNC.

The recorded interview with Mr Gordon was broadcast fully on the local radio

Asked about the expulsion of Fr Connors, the President said: "Fr Connors had been a problem for many years." He had been in the Rupununi illegally and had been deported from one of its villages, Aishalton, along with Fr John Bridges in 1980. Since then the president said, there had been incidents reported to him by the security people, which he was not prepared to disclose.

In the first place Fr Connors was not expelled from the Rupununi because of illegal residence there. The president himself admitted in the interview that the priest's position in the Rupununi had been "regularised."

Moreover, he had received no order to leave the Rupununi. He was only visiting Aishalton and was with Fr Bridges when the riot squad in full battledress arrived and surrounded the pres-

bytery.

Allegations that the priests brought Amerindians with bows and arrows into the village and

tried to get them to march on the small police outpost were refuted by Bishop Benedict Singh in a pastoral letter read in all the churches in which he declared: "I confidently deny that these priests bought people, armed with bows and arrows, into Aishalton, that the priests organised a demonstration, or that any demonstrations took place while the priests were in the village."

The villagers themselves considered the expulsion of Fr Bridges to be unjust and complained that they were at no time consulted by the authorities. Their Captain, Christopher Duncan, wrote the Regional Minister on March 6, 1980 and the letter was published in the *Catholic Standard* of April 13, 1980.

Now in 1986 this incident which occurred in

1980, together with other unspecified misdemeanours, are used to justify the expulsion of Fr Connors from the country.

Bishop Singh had said in his pastoral letter: "The forcible removal of these priests from the Rupununi is a most grievous attack on hinterland Christians' right to worship." The forcible removal of Fr Connors from this country is a grievous attack on the right to worship of all Guyanese Christians.

/12828

CSO: 3298/378

JAMAICA

COMPANIES CLOSING, RELOCATING IN TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 9 Mar 86 pp 1,2

[Text]

As a result of trade restrictions imposed by the Trinidad Government, several companies in Jamaica operating under licensing arrangements from large international concerns are planning to close down operations here and re-locate in Trinidad.

Directors of the local companies affected are tight-lipped about the situation, because they say they do not want to damage the 'sensitive' relationship which now exists between that twin-island state and Jamaica under the CARICOM arrangement.

One of the leading exporters to Trinidad told the *Gleaner* that not only were some companies planning to relocate to Trinidad, but Jamaica had lost several licensing arrangements as a result of the inability of local products to get into that market.

Exports from Jamaica to CARICOM markets, of which Trinidad is a significant part, declined from U.S.\$80 million in 1983 to U.S.\$30 in 1985. This was due mainly to a wide range of restrictions imposed by the Trinidad Government in 1984.

The thinking among leading Jamaican exporters of that market is that although the restrictions officially affected all CARICOM states, they appeared to be particularly directed at Jamaica.

One exporter pointed out, for example, that certain products manufactured in Jamaica were banned from Trinidad, but the same products manufactured in United States could be found on the shelves of supermarkets in Port-of-Spain.

Joint venture

In another case, a company has been offered to do a joint venture with Barbados, where the Jamaican goods would be produced here, passed through Barbados, and then sent to the Trinidad market, where they would gain access "because they were not coming from Jamaica".

Another exporter, who exports 75 per cent of his products to Trinidad, said that, luckily for him, his company was able to enter into a licensing contract with a large international company just months before the problems arose with the Trinidad market.

One of the more vocal members of the sector, Mr. Peter Clair, managing director of Orion, which does contract manufacturing for a wide variety of cosmetics, and for Fleetwood brushes, told the *Gleaner* that Trinidad once consumed 70 per cent of his brushes, and 40 per cent of cosmetics.

However, from 1984 "there has been no business in Trinidad — no licences. We lost a terrific amount of business," he said. As a result, the principals in Britain have decided to set up a manufacturing plant in Trinidad.

Gillette, another of the many companies which has suffered a similar fate in Trinidad, is now looking seriously into the possibility of doing contract filling in Trinidad.

According to a spokesman at Gillette, Trinidad represented about 55 per cent of that company's total business. However, as a result of restrictions against the razors, blades, pens and toiletries made by the company, only "a small percentage" was able to reach Trinidad over the last year.

An exporter, explaining the background to the problem, told the *Gleaner* that several of the manufacturing plants were set up in Jamaica because the island's entire manufacturing machinery was more efficient than that of Trinidad's. It was also assumed that, through CARICOM, products manufactured in Jamaica had unrestricted access to the Trinidadian market.

Hence, with the high purchasing power of the Trinidad petro-dollar, several locally-based companies practically built up their life-line on that buoyant economy. As much as 70 per cent, and 75 per cent in some cases, of total demand came from the Trinidad market.

No longer bouyant

One leading trader/exporter said that at the height of the Trinidad consumerism "just about anything could be sold in Trinidad". As a result, several Jamaican exporters made windfall profits of up to 100 per cent in that market.

When, therefore, the restrictions were imposed by that government, the Jamaican companies did not face a market diversified enough to cushion the limitation.

The same trader/exporter was critical of those companies which were now leaving for Trinidad.

"The fact of the matter is that the buoyant Trinidad market of 1983 no longer exists," he said. Businesses were closing down. Supermarkets and other outlets were reporting daily rapid fall-off in sales to his company. Prices were falling as well, and consumers were now extremely cagey about their spending patterns.

"When the companies shift base to Trinidad, I give them less than one year to run again... It's a pointless exercise, and does not solve the problem," said another manufacturer.

But despite the many problems, hopes are still high in the exporting industry for a revival of CARICOM. The recent bilateral trade meeting between the two countries and the undertaking by Trinidad to ease the restrictions, as well as the recent visit of Mr. Seaga to Trinidad, have re-kindled hopes of better days.

Now, the spirit is one of cautious optimism. Several exporters told the *Gleaner*: Trinidad is now demonstrating a welcomed willingness to open up trade again. But this, the Jamaican exporters insist, has to be balanced against the reality of a shrinking purchasing power of the Trinidad consumer.

JAMAICA

CARL STONE SLAMS GOVERNMENT HEALTH, EDUCATION POLICIES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Mar 86 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone: "Provoking Confrontation"]

[Text] The industrial action being taken by Junior Doctors represents yet another battlefield of confrontation provoked by the heavyhanded manner of Mr. Seaga's government.

The impasse with the teachers had hardly cooled before the government's sudden and ill-advised increases in tertiary level fees opened up yet another battlefield in education. As the CAST-UWI student issue dragged on without resolution, the government did it again by twisting the arm of the IDT and presurring that body into becoming a useless rubber stamp of government's wage policies in the Junior Doctor's issue.

It is not accidental that these conflicts are centred around health and education. This government has refused to recognise that education and health must be insulated from the knife of budget cuts. As a consequence, the country's future is being severely jeopardised by short-sighted monetarist policies which are starving health and education of necessary financial support under the guise of practising prudent financial management.

The health services are falling apart. The education system is collapsing. The training of health and educational workers is being cut back. The professionals are being asked to accept salary levels that allow them to barely survive. In the face of all of this belt tightening and hardship the government behaves with a heavy-handed arrogance more befitting a dictatorship than a government elected by voters.

Limitation

None but the most naive can believe the IDT story that it had made a mistake in the first award and was not correcting it. The plain fact is that the IDT was "draped up" by Minister Anderson as if they were little boys and told to revise their award to the Junior Doctors in keeping with government's wage policies.

The suggestion by the IDT that the LRIDA ties its hand in making it mandatory that it must accept government's wage policies in the national interest in dealing with wage awards seeks to remove any degree of discretion by the IDT in making such wage awards.

Under such a self-imposed limitation that reduces the IDT to the status of an impotent rubber stamp of government wage policies, the trade unions have every right to boycott the IDT until new and more realistic guidelines are accepted as the framework for the IDT's functioning.

In any event, the IDT members who were so spineless as to accept that view of their role ought to be removed from that body as no one can any longer have any confidence in the integrity of the judgments they exercise.

Non-bargaining

Had the Tribunal done the right thing and defied the Minister, they would have had the full backing of public opinion, workers, trade union, the private sector and professionals. By capitulating, they have joined the growing list of the cowardly who are being pushed around and intimidated by the most arrogant political administration this country has yet experienced.

Democratic government requires a willingness by those entrusted with power to negotiate differences with interests over whom they preside and a flexibility to give some ground on some issues to maintain and win confidence, trust and good will.

The JLP's style has been one made conspicuous by its non-bargaining approach to conflict issues. All this achieves has been unending confrontation on issues where a different approach, would yield negotiated settlements.

What is worse is that when the confrontation occurs, and action is taken by those who have been provoked by the government's arrogance, government spokesmen run to the media with abusive, threatening and vulgar propaganda.

Reality twisted

Dr. Gilmour twists reality by trying to tell primary school students that UWI and CAST fees are being hiked to their benefit. Mr. Anderson threatens the doctors and falsely accuses them of intimidating the courts when all they are doing is seeking to protect their rights. Teachers have been falsely accused of merely fighting politics under the guise of seeking more pay. Cheap attempts are made to turn public opinion against professionals whose hard work contributes so much to the progress of the country. These professionals are treated by feisty and haughty politicians as if they count for nothing.

Sharp disagreements over policies are unavoidable. The real issue is how a government handles them. Treating professionals and workers with respect is not a sign of being soft. Turning every conflict issue into a battlefield of confrontation might titillate the egos of little men handling

big power. Our Prime Minister, for example, fancies himself to be some sort of male Caribbean version of Mrs. Thatcher, the leading example of arrogance and authoritarian leadership in a democracy.

The late Tom Adams of Barbados also operated in this style and consumed so much of his undoubted talents in fighting petty issues and making enemies unnecessarily. But this kind of "macho" approach to dealing with conflict issues erodes goodwill and destroys chances of settling minor issues that fester and grow into major issues.

Spineless men

If the government of the day agrees 100% with all awards made by the Tribunal, the IDT cannot be considered to be functioning independently. An IDT that is not functioning independently of government cannot inspire any trust, confidence or faith in the integrity of what it does.

This arrogant government and some spineless men in the IDT have totally discredited the Tribunal mechanism while trying to make scapegoats of the Junior Doctors.

Whether it is Dr. Gilmour's silly comments about the CAST-UWI issue, Mr. Seaga's shouting at the teachers from his JLP platform, or Mr. Anderson's distorted reconstruction of the IDT's spinlessness, we come away from all these issues with an image of JLP politicians who believe that with enough demagoguery, arrogance and propaganda they can bully their way over all and sundry.

It's time we remind these politicians that they were elected to serve us and not to push us around.

Public trust

Democracy demands leaders who behave as if they are accountable to the people. By so doing they earn public trust and confidence even when they have to make unpopular decisions. The JLP government has an entirely different view as to how it should deal with us. Threats, bullyism, demagoguery, abuse and intimidatory propaganda are the only currency they deal in.

Should it surprise anyone that most of us turn off the radios and televisions when they try to talk to us?

When this government is removed from power it is going to leave behind a legacy of distrust of government and a trail of destroyed and enfeebled institutions that will take some doing to straighten out. The longer we wait for that day, the greater will be the institutional mess left behind. The IDT has now been clearly dumped on top of that load of administrative mess that a new government will have to clean up.

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CSO: 3298/379

JAMAICA

'85 ANTIDRUG STATISTICS HIGHLIGHT RESULTS OF CRACKDOWN

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Police in their intensified drive against the billion dollar drug trade last year destroyed three times the amount of ganja they did in 1984.

Now ganja growers and traders and dealers in harder drugs are hurting, police and drugs sources told the Gleaner.

Official police sources said drug eradication in Jamaica from January to December 1985 could be considered successful in the fight against drug eradication (ganja) and suppression.

In 1985, the Narcotics Task Force (of the police and military) eradicated 4,384 acres of ganja and seized or destroyed 228,150 pounds of cured ganja.

This, according to official police sources, was an increase of 3,293 acres or 301.85 per cent over 1984. During the same period, seizure of cured ganja decreased by just over 50 per cent.

Official police sources said the decrease in the seizure of cured ganja was also attributed to the successful eradication programme resulting in less ganja being available for bulk loading, storage and trafficking.

In regard to the hard drug, cocaine, police said that during 1985, 59 positive cases of cocaine were detected with a total weight of about 814 pounds. Of this amount, one case involved 810 pounds.

In comparison, in 1984 there were 35 positive cases amounting to 809 pounds. Of this amount, one case involved 806 pounds.

Deputy Police Commissioner S. A. McKay, in charge of crime, asked to comment, told the Gleaner yesterday: "It is evident from the eradication efforts (against ganja), we have been suppressing quite effectively the amount of ganja for local and international use."

"In respect to hard drugs, within our limited resources we are doing fairly well in respect of seizures and interceptions. And we expect to carry on these initiatives in 1986."

GLENER: The United States has been always pressing for more police action from this end, you mentioned limited resources, have they with their higher technology been helping?

MR. McKAY: The internationals co-operate fairly well in the efforts to suppress drug trafficking.

Pressed, in regard to "co-operating fairly well," Mr. McKay would not elaborate. But, the Gleaner understands the security forces need more resources.

They are using powered cutters, supplied by the U.S. Government, in the ganja fields in Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth, Portland, St. Mary and St. Ann, the main ganja parishes.

But helicopters, for instance which could help in intelligence gathering and other needed equipment are not in place.

It is understood that at least one member of the Police Force obtained a pilot's licence following on a Government announcement that planes would be part of the equipment of the Force.

At present, the Constabulary has to ask for assistance from the Jamaica Defence Force when aerial surveillance is needed for police work.

It is an open secret that ganja and hard drug barons deal with big money, and spend freely in villages where they pitch, and they also have the latest technological equipment, which the security forces are hard pressed to match.

In regard to hard drugs (mainly cocaine), official police sources had this to say: "Notwithstanding the limited cases of detection, intelligence suggests that there is growing usage of hard drugs in various areas of the island.

"Jamaica is still considered a trans-shipment port for hard drugs intended for the North American market and it is confirmed that portions of major shipments are siphoned off for local usage or as payment to the traffickers."

Police drug investigations for 1985 also found in regard to maritime and air conveyances: "For the period January to December 1985, seven boats and four aircraft were seized, in addition there were 17 crash-landings. This was in comparison to 10 aircraft and four boats in 1984 with 17 crash-landings."

In regard to arrests, official police sources said: "With the substantial increase in eradication there was a predictable decrease."

Interception and interdictions in 1985 showed: arrest with respect to ganja decreased by 13.25 per cent or 861 cases. There were 2,993 arrests for possession or a decrease of 14.5 per cent over 1984. There were 340 arrests for smoking ganja, a decrease of 21.3 per cent.

There were 51 cases of cultivating ganja or a decrease of 8.9 per cent. Cases of trafficking, preparing for export and attempting to export 359 cases or a decrease of 7.7 per cent.

Persons in the ganja-know told the Gleaner the police crackdown, which intensified in 1985, had cut in heavily on their livelihood.

/12828

CSO: 3298/379

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS DISCUSSES ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY IN STUMP SPEECH

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 16 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] **PRIME MINISTER**
George Chambers has called for self-reliance and self-development to help solve the country's problems. Chambers, as political leader of the People's National Movement, was addressing party supporters at the Marabella Comprehensive School on Friday evening as he continued his Meet-The-Party tour.

"We have had good times but they could never have lasted for all

time; now it is a hard time," Chambers said responding to comments from party groups. "But funds are not always the solution." He noted that when people approached Ministries they were often told there are no funds. But he said there are many ways in which people can be mobilized to get things done themselves, with assistance from state enterprises or private firms if necessary.

"I leave you with this challenge," he declared.

The Prime Minister observed also that unemployment was a world-wide problem, not one limited to Trinidad and Tobago. Here again, he suggested, self-help and self-employment might provide a solution. He said also that a Cabinet committee was present

discussing a fund for unemployed youth and would report shortly. "What is really needed," Chambers stressed, "is a massive influx of investment, though this will take some time." He noted that this was the reason he had gone to the Far East.

The Prime Minister went on to say, "Too many people have come to depend exclusively on handouts from DEWD." He added that he was committed to the idea of DEWD, "but not just for a few beneficiaries, legal or illegal."

Responding to a suggestion from the floor that public utilities might manufacture equipment they needed here, Chambers observed that one of the conditions attached to the borrowing of money from international financial institutions was that money lent be spent on goods produced by donor countries.

"The only country I know of that has lent money without such conditions is Trinidad and Tobago," Chambers declared. "And I don't blame them — if we ever lend again that is the way I am going."

Chambers added: "It is not easy in the world of international finance: you have to go there armed to the teeth."

Touching on the matter of squatters, the Prime Minister said a bill was to be introduced in the House of Representatives next Friday in order to regularise the position of those who having been squatting before the December, 1977, amnesty.

He called for greater unity and motivation in the Pointe-a-Pierre constituency, and urged party members to be unafraid and self-confident.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

UNION OFFICIAL GEORGE WEEKES NAMED TO SENATE

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU) leader George Weekes is expected to take up a seat in the Senate on Tuesday, replacing the late Senator Nuevo Diaz who died earlier this year.

A report said Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday had advised President Ellis Clarke to appoint Weekes in the Senate, representing the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR). It was learnt that Panday had already advised President Clarke by letter.

During Diaz's illness, Alloy Lequay acted for him. But since Diaz's death, the party agreed that labour's voice should continue to be represented.

It was learnt that Panday, acting on the advice of the NAR, approached Weekes to accept the nomination.

Weekes reportedly declined but after Panday insisted the offer was put to the OWTU General Council for discussion.

At a meeting of the OWTU General Council earlier this month, Weekes was given the all-clear to accept the nomination.

Nine years ago during the 1976-81 parliamentary term Weekes was appointed a senator to represent what was then the United Labour Front. But in 1977, during an ideological split in the ULF, Weekes joined with the Raffique Shah section of the ULF, and his appointment was subsequently revoked by Panday who then enjoyed the support of a majority of ULF parliamentarians.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MP JOHN HUMPHREY NAMED 'PARTY ORGANIZER' OF NAR

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Mar 86 p 3

[Text]

ST AUGUSTINE parliamentary representative, John Humphrey, was appointed party organiser of the National Alliance for Reconstruction at an executive meeting on Thursday evening.

"I think my role will be mainly inspirational since I am not really an organisational man," Humphrey said yesterday. "Karl Hudson-Phillips is really campaign organiser, but because of my image I can help with unify-

ing the party base."

He will work not only with Hudson-Phillips, but with elections officer Anthony Smart and general secretary Beau Tewarie as well.

"We are anticipating an early election," Humphrey told the EXPRESS, "and we need to put these crucial posts in place."

The NAR feels Prime Minister George Chambers may announce the date of the election at the People's National Move-

ment's special convention on March 30, and that the election could come as soon as the end of April.

At the executive meeting on Thursday, criteria for selection of the NAR's election candidates were agreed to and a final document is being prepared.

Humphrey intimated that the NAR will "do its best to put out a balanced team of candidates taking into consideration ethnic groups, expertise in government,

credibility, and popularity."

The nomination process awaits only the distribution of nomination papers, and should begin within the next week or two.

The party manifesto has also been discussed but is not yet ready.

"Work is going ahead apace," the new party organiser declared, "and you have my assurance that when the bell rings we will come out with fists flaring."

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DRUGS REPORT SAID TO IDENTIFY DEALERS IN 'HIGH POSITIONS'

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 16 Mar 86 p 1

[Text]

THE evidence in the Scott Drug Report is very specific and clearly identifies numerous drug dealers, pushers and associates, some of whom hold very high positions in the country.

The SUNDAY GUARDIAN was informed yesterday that the evidence includes details of names and addresses, times and places of the operations of these people, and the information was strong enough to stand up in any court. The source said prosecutions could take place soon.

Flight Of Money

According to sources, the report also expressed concern at the flight of money from Trinidad and Tobago through the illegal drug trade.

The report, which has been described as "dynamite", follows months of private hearings by a three-man Commission headed by former Court of Appeal judge Garvin Scott, who is now Chairman of the Public Service

Appeal Board; Professor Michael Beaubrun, psychiatrist and Jim Rodriguez, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security.

Sources yesterday stated that while the Commission was engaged in taking evidence, their lives had been threatened. Also threatened were some of the people who came forward to give evidence, and the report

commended those who risked their own safety to give evidence before the Commission.

Many of those giving evidence were reportedly drug addicts and some pushers working for the "big boys", who had got what they considered to be their share.

When the report was complete, the three

commissioners flew by National Security helicopter to Tobago to hand it over in person to President Clarke, who was at the time in the sister island.

The report was not laid in Parliament, but in an unusual move by Government has been handed to a special counsel, Desmond Allum, president of the Bar Association, who has been given the assignment of studying it and initiating any action he deems necessary.

Notes Of Evidence

Sources said yesterday that based on the kind of evidence in the report, it was almost certain some people would be prosecuted, such action to be taken through the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Apart from the report, Allum has also been given the verbatim notes of evidence taken during the hearings.

The report indicated that Trinidad and Tobago became the target of the drug trade because of the petroleum boom, which made a lot of money available locally. Among the countries involved in the trade are Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela and the USA.

URUGUAY

DEFENSE MINISTER DISCUSSES MILITARY ROLE, BUDGET

PY131312 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 5 Mar 86 p 5

[Text] Defense Minister Juan Vicente Chiarino and Defense Under Secretary Jose Maria Robaina Anso yesterday held a press conference at the Libertad building. During the press conference, Chiarino said that he is "very impressed with the reinstatement of the Armed Forces into the community, to which they belong, and with the increased interest they are taking in support of all social and development projects." He added that "the military leadership has demonstrated that there is an atmosphere of understanding" with regard to the national situation, although one cannot state that this is taking place at all levels within the Armed Forces." Speaking to journalists assigned to cover government activities, the defense minister assessed the activities conducted by his ministry during his first year in office.

Chiarino said that it "has not been an easy task because we took over a ministry where there obviously were very noticeable repercussions from the previous era. We felt that it was wise, reasonable, and fair to firmly follow the principles of the authority bestowed upon the Defense Ministry, and those of the assessment of how to reinstate the Armed Forces into the community."

The defense minister also discussed developments concerning the defense budget, which "was barraged by the opposition because it wanted to reduce it by such a percentage that it meant making it completely inadequate."

Concerning a reduction in Armed Forces personnel, Chiarino stated that "vacancies are being strictly kept unfilled" and that in 1987 the number of troops will be similar to that prevailing in 1943 (without giving figures)."

Chiarino admitted that the republic has an "absurd" number of colonels, making it clear that this situation dates back to 1940. He asserted that the number of military attaches (60) the country has abroad will be reduced to 50.

The defense minister stated that in March 1985 there were 86 military attaches.

Chiarino also emphasized that several alternatives will continue being reviewed concerning the organizational structure of the Armed Forces. He said

that these alternatives are aimed at changing "or modifying the primitive concepts that prevailed a few decades ago" about the role played by the military.

Robaina Anso

Referring to his personal contribution to the military budget talks Defense Under Secretary Robaina Anso said that "the budget issue was important in the transformation process of the Armed Forces and even of the state." He added that the military budget "not only includes the task forces but also includes all the investments the country has made in Antarctica."

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URUGUAY

BRIEFS

MINISTER THREATEND FOR FIRING DOCTOR--Montevideo, 16 Mar (AFP)--A government source has told AFP that Uruguayan Public Health Minister Raul Ugarte received several telephoned death threats yesterday in his home. According to the source, the minister yesterday reported to the Interior Ministry that the threats had to do with the firing on 14 March of a military doctor. The health minister fired Dr Eduardo Saiz Pedrini for falsifying the cause of death of a doctor who was arrested in 1983 at a military unit and died as a result of mistreatment. Saiz certified in the first autopsy performed on the body of Dr Vladimir Roslik that death was caused by a heart attack but a second examination showed that death resulted from torture. Saiz had served with Uruguayan troops who participated in the multilateral peace force in the Sinai. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1537 GMT 16 Mar 86] /9599

NAVY COMMANDER ACQUITTED--Montevideo, 6 Mar (AFP)--Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has upheld a decision by a military tribunal acquitting Navy Commander Jose Imizcoz of charges of human rights violations during the military regime. Imizcoz, who has been the Navy commander since February, is the second Navy officer to be promoted to the rank of admiral since the inauguration of the constitutional government a year ago. Imizcoz himself requested early in 1985 that a military tribunal hear charges brought against him through a local newspaper by a former sailor who deserted. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0055 GMT 7 Mar 86] /9599

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES--According to official data released on 5 March, the number of unemployed workers dropped by more than 18 percent between January 1985 and January 1986, and the unemployment rate fell to 10.88 percent in the November 1985 to January 1986 quarter, compared to 13.22 percent for the same period in 1984-85. [Summary] [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Mar 86 PY] /9599

POLITICAL PARTIES REACH AGREEMENT--After weeks of discussion, the four political parties have reached an agreement in Congress on approximately 40 initiatives contained in 14 chapters. The agreement will be revised within the next few days, and on 31 March the participating delegates will give their final agreement. It will then be submitted to the executive boards of their respective political parties. Among the initiatives, there is a project that defines the ownership of land, including a tax on absenteeism, thus proposing a solution to the purchase of land by foreigners. Regarding

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security, the agreement that has been reached is only programmatic, and there was absolutely no consensus on rules and regulations for the union sector. It must be pointed out that regarding the topics on which no agreement was reached, it was agreed that the political parties will be free to act as they like at the congressional level. The Broad Front has submitted a 10-point document that will be studied by the other political parties, according to Senator Hugo Batalla. [Excerpt] [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 86] /9599

U.S. CONGRESS' VOTE ENDORSEMENT--Montevideo, 21 Mar (AFP)--Uruguayan political circles today received with satisfaction the decision adopted on 21 March by the U.S. Congress to reject the request to give \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan contras. Javier Barrios Anza, the president of the International Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, said that it was the logical answer and he also considers that the resolution of the U.S. Congressmen is the right one. Barrios Anza, a member of the opposition National or Blanco Party (centrist), believes that President (Ronald) Reagan's position has been wisely blocked by Congress, which has fortified the Contadora Group's position. Roberto Asiain, a deputy for the governing party, has stated that he does not believe that 21 March was a dark day for freedom, as President Reagan has said. Asiain, who is candidate to become the interim president of the International Affairs Committee, also stressed that after Congress' vote the will of the U.S. people has been reaffirmed. The U.S. people now seem to understand that Latin American efforts for peace must be respected. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2237 GMT 21 Mar 86] /9599

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END